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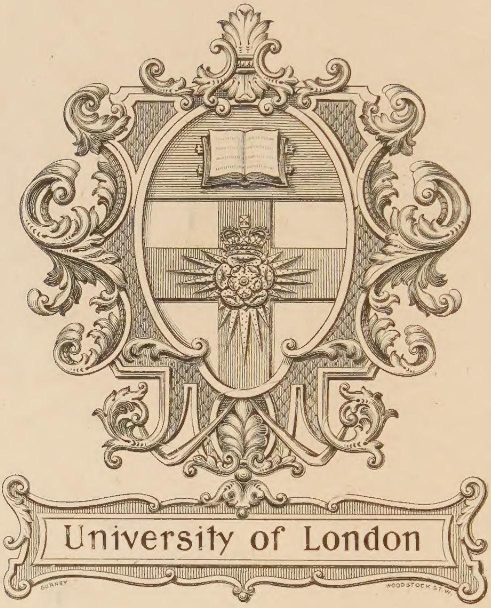
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

7 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLXXV.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THURSDAY, THIRTIETH DAY OF MAY, 1907, TO THURSDAY, THIRTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 1907.

SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1907.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

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The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery, the wife of St. John Brown Killery, a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, with the said St. John Brown Killery, and to enable her to marry again and for other purposes; presented, on Petition, and a copy of the Proceedings in, and of the Decree of Divorce of, the King's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, delivered (on oath). Bill read 1ª 1

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 2

Great Northern and City Railway Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed; The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 2

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Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order) 2

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TREATY SERIES, No. 14 (1907) (IN CONTINUATION OF "TREATY SERIES, No. 1, 1898").—Additional agreement between the United Kingdom and France, respecting the Parcel Post Service between British India and France; signed at Paris, 30th March, 1907. (Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 10th May, 1907) 3

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ARMY.—Statement showing the proposed financial control over the expenditure connected with the Territorial Force 3

SIGHT TESTS.—Report on the sight tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2990].

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 3

PORT OF ARUNDEL.—Account and Report for 1906–1907. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 3

Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies Bill [H.L.]; Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice) Bill [H.L.].—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee, and to such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order (No. 58) .. 3

Irish Tobacco Bill.—Order of the Day read for the House being put into Committee.

Lord Oranmore and Browne 4

Moved, "That the House do now resolve into Committee."—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Bill reported to the House without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

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House adjourned at a quarter-past Seven o'clock to Monday next at a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 30TH MAY, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.: Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 44

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill. [LORDS]—(King's Consent Signified).—Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments 44

North Staffordshire Railway Bill.—As amended, considered: to be read the third time 44

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15).—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Manchester, presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Burns.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Manchester," accordingly read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 215.] 45

Ordered, That Standing Order 193A be suspended and the Bill be now read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 44

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 45

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 45

Central London Railway Bill; Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed .. 45

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time 45

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time 45

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to:—Maidstone Gas Bill, with Amendments.

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That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Joint Committee." [Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords] 45

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Water-Works Bill [Lords].—Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 45

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Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions from Wharncliffe Silkstone, in favour; to lie upon the Table 46

Education (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions for alteration: From Denny; Dunipace; Larkhall; and Muirkirk; to lie upon the Table 46

Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Wishaw, in favour; to lie upon the Table 46

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petitions against: From Buxton; Earl's Court; Preston next Faversham; Taunton; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table 46

Weekly Rest Day Bill.—Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 46

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Rents and Royalties arising from Mines under the Sea.—Return [presented 28th May] to be printed. [No. 167] 46

Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation Rules.—Paper [presented 29th May] to be printed. [No. 168] 46

East India (Plague).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 29th May; *Dr. Rutherford*]; to lie upon the Table 46

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3806 and 3807 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 46

Treaty Series (No. 14,1907).—Copy presented, of additional Agreement between the United Kingdom and France, respecting the Parcel Post Service between British India and France. Signed at Paris, 30th March, 1907. Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 10th May, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 46

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.—Arundel Port. Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from 25th March, 1906, to 25th March, 1907 [by Act] 47

Land Judge's Court (Ireland).—Return ordered, "by counties, of the Estates in the Land Judge's Court over which Receivers have been appointed (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, Nos. 182, 256 and 264 of Sessions 1904, 1905 and 1906.")—(*Mr. Clancy*) 47

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AGRICULTURE, ETC.) (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, giving, in respect of each of the financial years 1898–9 to 1905–6: (*a*) the amount of Residue Grant available to local authorities in each county in Scotland, including the amount (if any) of Equivalent Grant allocated for purposes of Technical Education, and (*b*) details of the expenditure out of these sums during each of the financial years referred to upon (*c*) education in agriculture or allied interests, embracing dairying, veterinary science, horticulture, and forestry, together with (*d*) particulars of the expenditure in respect of these subjects by the Scotch Education Department out of the Votes applicable to the Department and out of the funds available under Section 2, Sub-section (4), of the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson*) 47

PUNJAB LAND COLONISATION BILL.—Address for "Return of the Punjab Land Colonisation Bill as originally presented to the Punjab Legislative Council; of the Report of the Select Committee thereon; and of the Debates in Council relating thereto."—(*Sir Henry Cotton*) 47

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DUBLIN POST STAFF.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 48

CLOSING OF WORKSHOPS OF CENTRAL UNEMPLOYED BODY.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 48

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TIME LIMITS FOR SPEECHES.—Question, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 98

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CONTROL OF ARMY EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 99

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (added in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr. Wiles and Mr. Arnold Herbert; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr. William Pearce and Mr. Whitwell Wilson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (added in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Houston; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Sir Henry Craik.

Reports to lie upon the Table 10

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NEW BILL.

Poor Law (Scotland) Amendment Bill.—"To further amend the Law relating to the settlement of the Poor in Scotland," presented by Sir Thomas Glen Coats; supported by Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Dundas White, and Mr. Younger; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 216] 100

SUPPLY [11TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

CLASS II.

1. £12,641, to complete the sum for Fishery Board, Scotland.

Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 101
Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire) 103
Mr. Arthur Bignold (Wicks Burghs) 104
Sir J. D. White (Dumbartonshire) 105
Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) 109
Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) 110
Mr. Sutherlands (Elgin Burghs) 114
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Mr. Watt (Glasgow College) 119
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Mr. Lamont (Buteshire) 120
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Mr. J. Dewar (Inverness) 131
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Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.) 141
Mr. Sinclair 142
Viscount Dalrymple (Wigton) 142

Vote agreed to.

2. £11,086, to complete the sum for the Secretary for Scotland's office.

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Mr. Morton 146
Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs) 148
Mr. Sinclair 149

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Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire) 153
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson 154
Mr. Weir 155
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 156
Mr. Morton 157
Mr. Sinclair 157

Vote agreed to.

3. £10,887, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board for Scotland.

Mr. Weir 157
Mr. Watt 162
Major Anstruther-Gray 162
Mr. Gulland 163
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson 164
Sir J. Jardine 164
Mr. Barnes (Glasgow College) 164
Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh Central) 166
Mr. Sinclair 166
Mr. Morton 167

Vote agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £3,799, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Lunacy in Scotland."

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at two minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 31st MAY, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tees Conservancy Bill [Lords].—As amended, to be considered upon Friday next 169

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 169

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next 169

Private Bills (Group F.).—Mr. Nussey reported from the Committee on Group F. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 169

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Education (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Forres, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 169

Education (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table 169

Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill.—Two Petitions from Newton in Makerfield, against; to lie upon the Table 169

Marriage With a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petitions against; from Lincoln-and-Plymouth; to lie upon the Table 169

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

East India (Plague).—Return [presented 30th May] to be printed. No. 169] 169

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3808 and 3809 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 170

Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 (Retreats).—Copy presented, of Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February, 1907, for the Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 170.] 170

Mercantile Marine (Sight Tests).—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Sight Tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 170

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Sixth Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 170

Intermediate Education (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Report of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 170

Local Contributions (Ireland).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th April; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table 170

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DRAINAGE OF KINGSTON BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane 171

RATING OF WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Runciman 171

FUSEL OIL.—Question, Mr. Haddock (Lancashire, North Lonsdale); Answer, Mr. Runciman 172

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS TO CARNDONAGH AND CLONMANY.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 172

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MESSENGERSHIPS.—Question, Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 173

INCOME TAX PAID ON INCOMES OF LESS THAN £700 PER ANNUM.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Asquith 173

SUGAR TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND MAURITIUS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Morley 173

APPOINTMENTS TO INDIA OFFICE MESSENGERSHIPS.—Question, Sir Samuel Scott; Answer, Mr. Morley 174

CONDITIONS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN BOMBAY TEXTILE FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Morley 174

MORIA LABOURERS COTTAGE SCHEMES.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 175

DUKE OF ABERCORN'S DONEGAL ESTATE—DELAY IN COMPLETION OF SALE.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 175

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (added in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Flavin; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. William Harvey.

Report to lie upon the Table 176

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Ordered, That the several Accounts and Papers which have been presented to the House in this session of Parliament relating to the Revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the Whole House.—(*Mr. Whit ley.*)

Resolved, That this House will upon Thursday next, resolve itself into the said Committee.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 176

Destructive Insects and Pests Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 10th June, and to be printed. [Bill 217] .. 176

Telegraph (Money).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums not exceeding in the whole £6,000,000 for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, and to apply the provisions of The Telegraph Act, 1892, to the raising of such sums.—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next 176

Criminal Appeal Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [8th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Akers-Douglas (*Kent, St. Augustine's*) 177
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 185
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 195
Mr. Stanger (*Kensington, N.*) 200
Mr. Buckmaster (*Cambridge*) 204
Mr. F. E. Smith (*Liverpool, Walton*) 207
Mr. Atherley-Jones (*Durham, N.W.*) 212
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S.W.*) 218
Mr. Lyttelton (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) 223
The Attorney-General (*Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.*) 226

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the Whole House."—(*Mr. F. E. Smith.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 43; Noes, 197. (Division List No. 194.)

Bill committed to a Standing Committee.

Limited Partnerships (Stamp Duty.)

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an *ad valorem* stamp duty on the statement of the amount contributed or to be contributed by a limited partner, or of any increase in such amount, of five shillings for every one hundred pounds and any fraction of one hundred pounds over any multiple of one hundred pounds of the amount so contributed or to be contributed or of the increase of that amount, as the case may be, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to establish Limited Partnerships; and to make provision for recovery of such stamp duty, with interest thereon, in pursuance of such Act.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next 239

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at two minutes before Five o'clock till Monday next.

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The Earl of MANSFIELD sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother 241

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [H.L.]; Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers; Leeds Corporation; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements); King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council; London and North Western Railway; London United Tramways; Penrith Urban District Council.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 241

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for additional Provision in the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision.

And that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the Alton Military Hospital ought to be dispensed with and leave given to introduce the Bill; read, and agreed to 241

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Burnley Corporation Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, without Amendments 241

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill; Boston Spa Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments .. 241

Shanklin Gas Bill.—Reported, with an Amendment 242

Brockenhurst Gas Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with an Amendment 242

Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 242

Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 242

Aberdeen Corporation Bill [H.L.] now Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.]—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 242

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made: Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 242

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 242

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Malmesbury be proposed to the House as a member of the Joint Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Manvers; read, and agreed to 242

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order) 242

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [H.L.]—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 242

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª, and to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 60) 242

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IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Return of advances under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st December, 1905. Vol. I., Part III. 243

ARMY (MILITARY PRISONS AND DETENTION BARRACKS).—Report on the discipline and management of the military prisons and detention barracks, 1906, by Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Henderson, inspector of military prisons and detention barracks.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 243

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 to 1899 (RETREATS).—Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February, 1907, for retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 243

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POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE).—The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 6.) Warrant, 1907, dated 15th May, 1907 243

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Order by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 13th May, 1907, providing for the early closing of shops in the parish of Cathcart (county of Renfrew) 244

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 27th May, 1907, declaring that Edward Cable, 3rd class labourer, Royal Army Clothing Department, War Office, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 244

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—University Court Ordinance, No. 20 (Edinburgh, No. 8), regulations for the degree of bachelor of pharmacy. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 59) 244

Irish Tobacco Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 244

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House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [Lords]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Bill [Lords]; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords]; Harrison's Patent Bill [Lords].

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time 250

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz.:—Coventry Corporation Water Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 250

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 250

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 251

Armagh Urban District Council Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed 251

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Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [LORDS]; SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON BILL [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 251

Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed 251

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill—Read the third time, and passed 251

LADYBANK SEWERAGE DRAINAGE AND WATER PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water, presented by Mr. Sinclair.

Ordered, That Standing Order 193A be suspended, and the Bill be now read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 251

Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water," accordingly read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 218] 251

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—Ordered, That the Memorandum by the Commissioners of Works on Electric Power and Supply Bills [Command Paper No. 2930, of Session 1906] be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*) 251

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EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Study of Languages [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 252

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).—Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XX. (Edinburgh, No. 8) (Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 171] 252

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Factory Inspectors.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 22nd March; *Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 172] 252

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Superannuation Act, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 27th May, 1907, declaring that Edward Cable, 3rd Class Labourer, Royal Army Clothing Department, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act];to lie upon the Table 253

Post Office (Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post).—Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant, 1907, dated 15th May, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 253

Irish Land Commission.—Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st December, 1905. Vol. I., Part III. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 253

Intermediate Education (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which Examinations for 1907 shall be held [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 253

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MEMBERS' CORRESPONDENCE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 318

IRISH STANDING COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 318

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 318

POLICE PROTECTION.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 319

Notification of Births Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee A.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 173.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 173.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and be printed. [Bill 219.] .. 319

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 320
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 330
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 336
Mr. J. Ramsey Macdonald (Leicester) 341
Sir Alfred Thomas (Glamorganshire, E.) 343

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 5:—

Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 344

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Amendment proposed—

> "In page 6, line 19, after the word 'consisting,' to insert the words 'of such units as hereinafter provided, of which units a number to be specified by the Army Council shall be composed of men liable for service in places outside the United Kingdom when the First Class of the Army Reserve is called out, and' "—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 351
Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone) 353
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 354
Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) 356
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 357
Viscount Morpeth (Birmingham, S.) 357
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 359

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 77 ; Noes, 280. (Division List No. 195).

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 259 ; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 196.)

Clause 6 :—

Mr. Wyndham 367

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 6, line 26, at the end, to insert the words, '(*a*) Provided that when fifty per cent. of all ranks serving in any part of the Territorial Force accept before embodiment either or both of the liabilities hereinafter enacted in section twelve (two) (*a*) and (*b*) that part shall in respect of government and discipline be under the orders of the general officer commanding the district in which it is trained, and' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 370
Mr. Wyndham 372
Mr. Guest (Cardiff District) 373
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 374
Mr. Haldane 374
Colonel R. Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 376
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 377
Mr. Wyndham 378
Sir F. Banbury 378
Mr. Carlile (Herts., St. Albans) 379

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 39 ; Noes, 224. (Division List No. 197.)

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Mr. Wyndham 383

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, at the end, to insert the words, 'Provided that the pay and allowances of any man of the Territorial Force shall be calculated in proportion to the amount of the duties which he performs, and that an extra allowance shall be paid in respect of each extra duty performed or extra liability undertaken.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 384
Viscount Helmsley (*Yorks, N.R., Thirsk*) 385
Viscount Castlereagh 386
Mr. Lane-Fox (*Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash*) 387
Sir Howard Vincent 387
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 388
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 389
Mr. Abel Smith (*Hertfordshire, Hertford*) 390

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 48 ; Noes, 246. (Division List No. 198.)

Sir Howard Vincent 393

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 21, at end, to add the words 'And for the effective central administration of this force a department shall be established at the War Office under an officer having special knowledge and experience with the Volunteers, and ranking as the third military member of the Army Council.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Under-Secretary of State for India (*Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.*) 395
Sir Gilbert Parker 396
Mr. McCrae 398
Mr. Wyndham 399
Mr. Haldane 400
Viscount Morpeth 401
Major Seely 402
Mr. Guest 404

And, it being half-past Ten of the Clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of 6th May, to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Amendment already proposed from the Chair :—

Question put, "That the words 'and for the effective central administration of this force to establish a Department at the War Office under an officer having special knowledge and experience with the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers ranking as the third member of the Army Council,' be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 114 ; Noes, 295. (Division List No. 199.)

The CHAIRMAN then proceeded successively to put forthwith the Questions on the Amendments moved by the Government of which notice had been given, and on the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Question put, " That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 294 ; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 200.)

Clause 7 amended.

Question put, " That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 283 ; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 201.)

Whereupon the CHAIRMAN left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Imported Watch Cases Bill.—Read a second time and committed to a Standing Committee 416

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven of the Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1907.

LUCAS PEERAGE.—Committee for Privileges met : Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant ; the Attorney-General appearing on behalf of the Crown ; the Attorney-General heard ; witnesses examined ; claim considered : Then it was resolved that the Petitioner Auberon Thomas Herbert, claimant to the Barony of Lucas of Cradwell, hath made out his claim to the said Barony ; report thereof to be made to the House .. 417

VISCOUNT MIDLETON.—Petition of William St. John Fremantle Brodrick, Baron Brodrick in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and Viscount Midleton, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland ; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House 417

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday), and read 1ª 417

Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 417

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 417

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.—Committee to meet on Tuesday next 417

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Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 417

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons 417

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Brought from the Commons 417

Armagh Urban District Council Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}, and referred to the Examiners 418

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 418

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 418

Worthing Gas Bill; Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill; Taff Vale Railway Bill; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill; Swansea Harbour Bill; Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Northern and City Railway Bill; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporaton Bill; Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bills.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—

E. Abingdon,
E. Morley,
V. Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*) (chairman),
L. Oriel (*V. Massereene*),
L. Bowes (*E. Strathmore and Kinghorn*);

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Wednesday, the 12th instant, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 418

Canals Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 418

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 62) 418

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Portsmouth, and Sennen. Was presented by (The Lord Granard (*E. Granard*)). Then it was moved, That the Order of the 20th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 2nd day of May next," be dispensed with in respect of the said Bill, and that the Bill be now read 1^{a}; agreed to; Bill read 1^{a} accordingly; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 63) 419

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TURKEY (1907).

No. 1. Further correspondence respecting the affairs of South-Eastern Europe. (In continuation of "Turkey, No. 1" (1906) [Cd. 2816].)

No. 2. Correspondence respecting the increase of the Turkish customs duties.

No. 3. Despatches from the British Adviser on the Macedonian Financial Commission 419

TRADE REPORTS : ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3810. Germany (Pomerania).
No. 3811. Portugal (Madeira).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 419

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—Petition against legalisation of. Of clergy of the deanery of Midhurst; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 419

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION BILL [H.L.].—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit until further order. (No. 61) 419

ARREARS IN THE LAW COURTS.

The Earl of Halsbury 420
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 420

Factory and Workshop Bill [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

The Earl of Lytton 421

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 21 and 22, to leave out paragraph (*d*)."—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Earl Beauchamp 422

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

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Clause 5:—

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 422

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 16, to leave out the words 'or religious.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Lytton 423

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 17, to leave out the words 'and not' and to insert the word 'or.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Earl Beauchamp 424

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 424

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 18, after the word 'exercised,' to insert the words 'as a source of pecuniary profit to the institution and as one of the purposes and objects thereof.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

Earl Beauchamp 425

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 425

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 23, after the word 'premises,' to insert the words 'where such labour is exercised,' and to leave out from the word 'notwithstanding' to 'that' in line 24.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

Earl Beauchamp 426

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 426

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 31, after the word 'persons,' to insert the words 'dwelling elsewhere.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Earl Beauchamp 427
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 427

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn ..

The Earl of Lytton 427

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 27, to leave out from the beginning of sub-section (2) to the end of the clause, and to insert as a new subsection :—

(2) In laundries attached to or forming part of any institution to which this section applies the following modifications of the law relating to holidays and notices shall have effect :

(*a*) Subsection three of Section thirty-five of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, shall not apply, and the following provisions shall be substituted in lieu thereof : A notice of every holiday or half holiday must be forwarded during the first week in January to the inspector for the district, and unless the notice has been so sent, cessation from work shall not be deemed to be a whole holiday or a half holiday. Provided that any such notice may be changed by a subsequent notice sent in like manner not less than twenty-four hours before the holiday or half holiday to which it applies.

(*b*) The managers of the institution shall, not later than the fifteenth day of January in each year, send to the Secretary of State a correct return in the prescribed form, specifying the names of the managers and the name of the person (if any) having charge of the institution under the managers, and such particulars as to the number, age, sex, and employment of the inmates and other persons employed in the work carried on in the institution as the Secretary of State may require, and shall, if any requirement of this paragraph is not complied with, be liable to a fine not exceeding *five pounds*.—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 431
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 431
Earl Beauchamp 432
The Earl of Lytton 433

amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to, and Bill reported with an Amendment to the House.

Earl Beauchamp 434

Moved, "That the Standing Committee be negatived."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Report of the Amendment to be received on Thursday next ; and the Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 64)

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The Marquess of Londonderry 434
Lord Clonbrock 443
Lord Denman 447
The Earl of Mayo 452
Lord Barrymore 456
Lord Dunboyne 459

Moved, " That the debate stand adjourned."—(*Viscount Hill.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tyne Improvement Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 462

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—Mr. W. Howell Davies, Mr. Joseph Nolan, Mr. W. W. Rutherford, Sir Albert Spicer, and Mr. D. A. Thomas were nominated Members of the Select Committee on the London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 462

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read a second time and committed 462

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee—

" That, in the case of the Selsey Water Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

" That in the case of the Alton Military Hospital [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to 463

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to :—Irish Tobacco Bill, without Amendment ; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to :—Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords], without Amendments.

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That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to remove doubts as to the validity of a certain Decree, dated thirtieth October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, of the High Court of Justice (Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division), dissolving the Marriage solemnised on the sixteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, between William Howard Murphy Grimshaw and Mary Evalina Julia Murphy Grimshaw, then Mary Evalina Julia Woodward, Spinster, and to confirm the said Decree." [Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill intituled, " An Act to confer further powers on the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen in connection with their electricity undertaking; and for other purposes." [Aberdeen Corporation Bill [Lords], now Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill intituled " An Act to extend the limits of supply of the Wisbech Waterworks Company; and to confer further powers upon that Company." [Wisbech Water Bill [Lords] 463

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time: to be read a second time 463

Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [LORDS]; Wisbech Water Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 464

PETITIONS.

CONGO FREE STATE.—Petition from Eccles, for protection of the Native Races; to lie upon the Table 464

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions for alteration: From Campbeltown; and Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table 464

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petitions against: From Great Crosby; Haydock; Little Woolton and Childwall; Rainford; Southport; and Speke; to lie upon the Table 464

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from Eccles, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 464

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Alva, in favour; to lie upon the Table 464

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against: From Alexandra Park; Bearsted; Bournemouth; Cambridge (three); Carshalton; Chantry; Eakring; Lewes; Newark; Oxford; Ryde; Watford; and Wood Green (two); to lie upon the Table. 464

OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 464

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).—Petition from Wolstanton and Burslem, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 464

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.—Petition from Islington against; to lie upon the Table 464

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SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Boston, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 465

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).—Return [presented 31st May] to be printed. [No. 174] 465

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3810 and 3811 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 465

TURKEY (No. 1, 1907).—Copy presented, of Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of South-Eastern Europe [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 465

TURKEY (No. 2, 1907).—Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Increase of the Turkish Customs Duties [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 465

TURKEY (No. 3, 1907).—Copy presented, of Despatches from the British Adviser on the Macedonian Financial Commission [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 465

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd June; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175] 465

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

MAXIMUM SALARIES OF ASSISTANT CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Runciman 465

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL—THE GRAND JURY SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.); Answer, Sir John Walton 466

APPOINTMENT TO HEADMASTERSHIP OF DUBLIN METROPOLITAN SCHOOL OF ART.—Question, Mr. Gwynn (Galway); Answer, Mr. T. W. Russell 466

HORSE BREEDING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. T. W. Russell 467

CHILDREN CHARGED AT METROPOLITAN POLICE COURTS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 468

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES FOR THE LONDON DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 468

AGE FOR EXERCISE OF FRANCHISE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 469

SITE FOR NEW POST OFFICE AT BOLTON.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 470

APPLICATION OF POSTMAN LANGWORTHY OF TIVERTON FOR TRANSFER.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 470

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Acting Head Postman D. Dixon of Dublin—Claims for Promotion.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 471

Continuous Discharge Books Issued to Seamen.—Question, Mr. J. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 471

La Fiesta Mine.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Secretary Sir Edward Grey 472

Special Service Men in the Navy.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 472

Scottish Schools for Teaching Junior Students.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 473

Messrs. Davidson and Company of Belfast and Trade Unions.—Question, Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Cherry 473

The Patents Bill and Patents worked Abroad.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 474

British Shipping Trading to South Africa.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 474

Channel Islands Shipping Laws.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 477

Gambling Operations in American Cotton.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 477

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Cordite.—Questions, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham), Mr. Cowan (Surrey, Guildford), Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood), Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, The Secretary of the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 478

British Generals and Disarmament.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 480

Defective Rifle Ammunition.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Haldane 480

Eltham Common.—Questions, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley), Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answers, Mr. Haldane 481

Yeomanry Inspections.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 481

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Transvaal Loans.—Questions, Mr. George Faber (York), Sir F. Banbury (City of London), Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 483

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British Embassy at Tokio—Medical Officer.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick) 484

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German Trade with the United States.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 485

Rebellion in Persia.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 485

Chinese Anti-Opium Edict.—Questions, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs), Mr. Lynch; Answers, Sir Edward Grey.. 486

Depreciation of Securities.—Questions, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth), Mr. George Faber; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 486

Income-Tax Returns.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 487

Finance Bill.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 488

Workmen's Compensation.—Questions, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.), Mr. H. J. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 488

Departmental Committee on Checkweighing.—Questions, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College), Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 488

The Companies Bill.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 489

Sale of Disinfectants.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 489

Southminster Guardians' Election.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 490

General Post Office—Leave of Absence Regulations.—Question, Mr. Thorne; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 491

Belfast Post Office Staff.—Questions, Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.), Captain Craig (Down; E.), Mr. J. Ward, Mr. Austen Chamberlain; Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 492

American Mail Service.—Question, Mr. Moore; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton.. 493

Imports of Paper.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central), Mr. J. Ward; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 493

Second Division Clerks.—Question, Mr. Parker (Halifax); Answer, Mr. Runciman 494

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Dog Regulations.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Treasurer of the Household (Sir Edward Strachey, Somersetshire) .. 495

Meat Trade in Glasgow.—Question, Mr. Watt; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 496

Irish Licensing Laws.—Question, Mr. Moore; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) 496

Irish Schools—Heating Arrangement.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Cherry 497

Skibbereen Medical Officer.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 497

Intimidation in Ireland.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Byles; Answers, Mr. Cherry 497

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Derby Day.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Mr. Asquith 500

Rise in the Price of Wheat.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answers, Mr. Asquith 500

Post Office Sites Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 176.]

Minutes of the Proceedings to be printed. [No. 176.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House for To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 220] 501

Patents and Designs Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee C.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 177.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 177.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 221] 501

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Attorney-General; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Solicitor-General.

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Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following fifteen Members (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. William Johnson, Sir Walter Nugent, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Watt, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Hills, Mr. Meysey-Thompson, Mr. Abel Thomas, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Gooch, and Mr. Beck.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following fourteen Members (in respect of the Municipal Elections Bill): Mr. O'Mara, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Cleland, Mr. Barnes, Major Coates, Mr. Younger, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Wood, Mr. King, Mr. Alfred Mason, Mr. Lewis Haslam, Mr. Benn, and Mr. Mallet.

Reports to lie upon the Table 502

NEW BILL.

Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—"To prohibit employment between noon on Saturday and six o'clock on Monday morning in cotton, woollen, worsted, flax, hemp, silk, jute, and paper factories, and in bleaching and dyeing works," presented by Mr. Jowett; supported by Mr. Snowden, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Wardle, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. George Roberts; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 222] 502

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 8:—

Viscount Morpeth (Birmingham, S.) 503

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 11, after the word 'Act, to insert the words 'and of the Militia Ballot Act which shall be applicable to the Territorial Force. "—(*Viscount Morpeth.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted.'

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 507
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 508
Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone) 509
Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.) 510
Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon) 511
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 512
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 513
Mr. Arthur Lee (Hants, Fareham) 515
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 515
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 516

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Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 519
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim. S.) 519
Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 520
Mr. Maddison (Burnley) 522
Colonel Sandys (Lancashire, Bootle) 524

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 75 ; Noes, 261. (Division List No. 202.)

Mr. Ashley 527

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 14, at the end, to insert the words "Provided that no man shall be enlisted for any duties for which he is not physically fit.' "—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 530
Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) 530
Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon) 531
Mr. McCrae 535
Sir Gilbert Parker 535

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 95 ; Noes, 248. (Division List No. 203.) ..

Sir Charles Dilke 539

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, lines 12 and 13, to leave out the words 'enlisted by such persons and,' and to insert the word 'enrolled.' "—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

Mr. Haldane 541
Sir Charles Dilke 541

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Ashley 541

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 17, after the word 'enlisted,' to insert the words 'for a particular corps or.' "—(*Mr. Ashley*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 542
Mr. Wyndham 542

Page
Mr. Ashley 543
Mr. Haldane 543
Mr. Arnold-Forster 543

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Wyndham 545
Mr. Haldane 546
Mr. Arnold-Forster 546
The Under-Secretary of State for India (*Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.*) 547
Sir Howard Vincent 547
Mr. Haldane 548
Major Seely (*Liverpool, Abercromby*) 549

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. McCrae 549

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 8, lines 21 and 22, to leave out the words, ' such a period as may be prescribed, not exceeding,' and to insert the words, ' a period of not less than.' "—(*Mr. McCrae.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Haldane 550
Mr. Wyndham 550
Sir Howard Vincent 551

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 551

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 8, line 24, to leave out from the beginning to the word ' and ' in line 27, and insert the words ' may, on the conclusion of his engagement, be re-engaged from year to year.' "—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 552
Viscount Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 553
Mr. Wyndham 553
Mr. Courthope 553
Colonel R. Williams 554
Mr. Wyndham 554
Colonel Herbert (*Monmouthshire, S.*) 555
Mr. Acland (*Yorkshire, Richmond*) 555
Mr. Ashley 555
Mr. Haldane 555

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Howard Vincent 557

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 27, to leave out from the word 'term' to the end of sub-section."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Acland 557
Mr. Haldane 557
Sir Howard Vincent 558

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Howard Vincent 558

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, to omit lines 40 and 41."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 558
Lord Willoughby de Eresby (*Lincolnshire, Horncastle*) .. . 559
Sir Howard Vincent 559
Colonel R. Williams 559

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 40, to leave out the words 'His Majesty,' and insert the words, 'the association for the county for which he was enlisted.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Sir Howard Vincent 560
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 560
Viscount Valentia (*Oxford*) 560
Mr. Acland 561

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted.

Mr. Ashley 561

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 41, to leave out the words, 'five pounds,' and to insert the words, 'in any particular case the sum therefor specified in the Schedule to the Act.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'five pounds' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 562
Sir Howard Vincent 563
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 563
Colonel Herbert 564
Lord Balcarres 564
Colonel R. Williams 565
Mr. Maddison 565
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 566
Mr. Courthope 566
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.) 567
Mr. Ashley 568

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 202 ; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 204.)

Mr. Ashley 569

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 3, at end, to add the words 'or, in cases where for any good and sufficient cause the delivery of the property aforesaid is impossible, on paying the value thereof.' "—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Viscount Castlereagh 571

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words, 'the association for the county or for any officer authorised by the association,' and insert the words 'his commanding officer.' "—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir H. Vincent 572
Mr. Acland 572
Mr. Arnold-Forster 572
Mr. Buchanan 573
Mr. Courthope 573
Mr. McCrae 574
Sir Gilbert Parker 574
Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud) 575
Captain Craig 575
Mr. Wyndham 577
Mr. Haldane 578
Mr. Courthope 579
Mr. Wyndham 579

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Viscount Castlereagh 580
Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate) 582
Sir Howard Vincent 582
Col. Kenyon-Slaney 582

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 279 ; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 205.)

And, it being after half-past ten of the clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded :—

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 281 ; Noes, 124. (Division List No. 206.)

Clause 9 :

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 277 ; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 207.)

Clause 10 :

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 281 ; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 208.)

Clause 11 :

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 300 ; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 209.)

Clause 12 :

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 289 ; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 210.)

Whereupon the CHAIRMAN left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Married Women's Property Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee 607

Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment Bill.—Order for Second Reading read. Objection being taken,

Sir Howard Vincent 607

Bill read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

Incest Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee .. 607

HOME WORK.—Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the conditions of labour in trades in which home work is prevalent, and the proposals, including those for the establishment of wages boards and the licensing of work places, which have been made for the remedying of existing abuses.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Twenty-one Members.

Committee accordingly nominated of, Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Bridgeman, Sir William Bull, Mr. Boland, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Chiozza Money, Mr. Joseph Devlin, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Fell, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Ernest Lamb, Mr. Massie, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Parkes, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stuart Samuel, Mr. Sherwell, Mr. Trevelyan, and Sir Thomas Whittaker.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Seven be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 607

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 5TH JUNE, 1907.

LUCAS PEERAGE.—Report from the Committee for Privileges that the Petitioner Auberon Thomas Herbert hath made out his claim to the peerage title, dignity, and honour of Baron Lucas of Cradwell in the Peerage of England; made and agreed to; and resolved and adjudged accordingly; and Resolution and Judgment to be laid before His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves. Ordered, that all deeds, documents, and papers produced on behalf of the Petitioner by his agents, be delivered to the said agents 609

LUCAS PEERAGE.—The Evidence taken before the Committee for privileges to be printed 609

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Swansea Harbour Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th of May last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed 609

Leeds Corporation Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed 609

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill, London and North-Western Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 609

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Penrith Urban District Council Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 609

Bristol Corporation Bill; Burnley Corporation Bill.—Read 3ª, and passed .. 609

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed 609

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1), Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow 610

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª to-morrow 610

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hastings be proposed to the House as a Member of the Joint Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Marquess of Winchester; read, and agreed to 610

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AUSTRALASIA.—Further correspondence relating to the convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides. (In continuation of [Cd. 3288], January, 1907) 610

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3812. France (Bordeaux).
No. 3813. United States (Boston) 610

MINES.—First Report of the Royal Commission on Mines (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices, Vol. I.).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 610

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 1st June, 1907, respecting the addition of years to be assigned for pension purposes to the office of senior inspector under the Board of National Education in Ireland. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 610

THE STATE OF IRELAND.—Order for the Day for resuming the debate with reference to the continuance of acts of lawlessness in various districts in Ireland, read.

Viscount Hill 611
The Earl of Donoughmore 615
The Lord President of the Council (The Earl of Crewe) 620

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Lord Ashbourne 633
Lord Oranmore and Browne 639
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 641
The Marquess of Lansdowne 646

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 5TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Central London Railway Bill.—As amended, to be considered to-morrow .. 650

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 650

Clyde Navigation Provisional Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Clyde Navigation," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and ordered, under Section 7 of the Act, to be considered upon Monday next 650

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL (VARIOUS POWERS) [LORDS]; Southend Water Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table .. 650

Harbour Authorities (Ireland) Bill.—Second Reading deferred from to-morrow till Monday, 17th June 650

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the District Committee of the First or Upper District of the county of Renfrew to construct and maintain water works and to supply water within their district; to authorise the County Council of the county of Renfrew to acquire the undertaking of the Busby Water Company and other lands and servitudes for the purposes of such water supply; to authorise and require the said county council to levy assessments and to borrow money for such water works, undertaking, and supply; to authorise the county council to acquire land for sewage purification works; and for other purposes." [Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [Lords] .. 650

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.. 651

PETITIONS.

COMPANIES BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.. 651

EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS) BILL.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 651

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Calderhead, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 651

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EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petitions against; from Ditton; Kirkdale (three), and, West Derby (two); to lie upon the Table .. 651

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 651

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against; From Southsea; and, Winkfield; to lie upon the Table 651

MORTGAGE OF PREMISES BILL.—Petition from Huddersfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table 651

MUNCIIPAL MILK DEPOTS BILL.—Petition from Kensington, against; to lie upon the Table 651

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 651

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 651

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND JUDGE'S COURT (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th May; *Mr. Clancy*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 178] 651

MINES (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of First Report of the Royal Commission on Mines (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices, Vol. 1) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 652

AUSTRALASIA.—Copy presented, of Further Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 652

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3812 and 3813 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 652

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 1st June, 1907, respecting the addition of years to be assigned, for pension purposes, to the office of Senior Inspector under the Board of National Education in Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 652

CRIMINAL APPEAL [EXPENSES].—Committee to consider of authorising the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament of salaries and expenses incurred in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal and to amend the Law relating to Appeals in Criminal Cases (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow).—(*Mr. Whiteley*) .. 652

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PAYMENT FOR CHRISTMAS OVERTIME IN BRADFORD POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 652

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Delivery of Indian Mail on June 1st.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 653

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of John Maguire.—Question, Mr. Thomas F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 653

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Boy Artificers as 5th Class Engine Room Artificers.—Question, Mr. Bowerman (Deptford); Answer, Sir Edmund Robertson 656

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Women on Scottish Boards.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, Mr. Asquith 695

Government Contracts and Trade Unionists.—Question, Mr. Clynes; Answer, Mr. Asquith 695

Transvaal Loan Bill.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Asquith 695

Public Accounts Committee Report.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Asquith 696

Land Values (Scotland) Bill.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour; Answers, Mr. Asquith 696

Butter and Margarine Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee B.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 179.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 179.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 223] 696

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Munro Ferguson; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Ashton.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Health Bill): Mr. Ellis Griffith; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Health Bill): Dr. Cooper.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had added the following Member to Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Member (in respect of the Municipal Elections Bill): Mr. Middlemore.

Reports to lie upon the Table 697

Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.—Mr. Brodie, Mr. Hills, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Walters nominated Members of the Select Committee on the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 697

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 13:—

Mr. Arthur Lee (Hants, Fareham) 697

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 32, to leave out all the words after 'shall,' to the end of line 4 on page 12, and insert the words, 'on enlistment, undergo a preliminary period of continuous training of not less than two months in the case of the infantry and of three months in the cases of the cavalry and field artillery.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Lee.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 700
Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon) 702
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 705
Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster) 707
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 708
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 710
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 713
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 715

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 715

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 35, to leave out from beginning to the word 'attend,' in page 12, line 2."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Haldane 717
Sir Howard Vincent 718
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 719
Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.) 720
Viscount Morpeth (Birmingham, S.) 720

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Viscount Castlereagh 721

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 40, to leave out the words 'or oftener.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

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Question proposed, "That the words 'or oftener' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 721

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, "That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 721
Lord Edmund Talbot (*Sussex, Chichester*) 722
Mr. Haldane 726

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 271 ; Noes, 87. Division List No. 211.)

Clause 14 :—

Sir Howard Vincent 729

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 9, to leave out the word 'man' and insert the word 'unit.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 729

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 730

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out the words, 'not less than eight nor more than.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 731
Sir Howard Vincent 731
Mr. Arnold-Forster 733

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lane-Fox (*Yorkshire, W.R.,* Barkston Ash) 733

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 12, to leave out the word 'fifteen' and insert the word 'twenty-one.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'fifteen' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane .. 734
Sir Samuel Scott .. 734
Mr. Haldane .. 734
Sir Samuel Scott .. 734
Mr. W. F. D. Smith .. 735

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Viscount Castlereagh .. 735

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 15, to leave out the words 'or oftener.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir Howard Vincent .. 736
The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 736
Mr. Courthope .. 737

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Howard Vincent .. 737
Mr. Wyndham .. 738

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 19, after the word 'that' to insert the words, 'one out of every eight regiments of Cavalry or batteries of Field Artillery shall be trained for two months, and one out of every eight battalions of Infantry for one month in each year, and that.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane .. 739
Viscount Morpeth .. 740
Colonel Herbert (Monmouthshire, S.) .. 742
Mr. Wyndham .. 742

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 55 ; Noes, 223. (Division List No. 212.)

Sir Howard Vincent .. 743

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 19, to leave out the words 'prescribed general,' and to insert the word 'commanding.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

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Mr. Haldane .. 746
Viscount Castlereagh .. 746
Mr. Courthope .. 747
Mr. Verney (Bucks N.) .. 748
Colonel Herbert .. 749
Mr. Haldane .. 750
Sir Howard Vincent .. 750

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Viscount Castlereagh .. 750

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 24, to leave out subsection (a)."—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane .. 751
Mr. Ashley .. 751
Lord Balcarres .. 751
Viscount Castlereagh .. 752

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Courthope .. 753

Amendment proposed—
"In page 12, line 28, to leave out subsection (b)."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Buchanan .. 753
Colonel Walker (Lancashire, Widnes) .. 754

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Courthope .. 754

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 31, to leave out subsection (c)."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Buchanan .. 754
Mr. Chas. Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud) .. 755

Question put, and agreed to.

Colonel Herbert .. 755

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'instruction' to insert the words, 'with his own or other unit of the Regular or Territorial Forces.'"—(*Colonel Herbert.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Buchanan 756
Mr. Ashley 756
Colonel Herbert 756
Major Seely 757
Mr. Chas. Hobhouse 757

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15:—

Mr. Ashley 757

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 38, to leave out the word 'extending,' and insert the word 'varying.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'extending' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Buchanan 758
Captain Craig 758

Amendment negatived.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16:—

Lord Balcarres 759

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 6, to leave out Subsection (1)."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Buchanan 760

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, "That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Haldane 767

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Mr. Wyndham 768
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham) 769
Sir Howard Vincent 770
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 771
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 772
Mr. Wyndham 773
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 773
Mr. Haldane 773
Mr. Arnold-Forster 773
Captain Craig 774

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 275 ; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 213.)

And, it being after half-past ten of the clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions on the Amendments moved by the Government, of which notice had been given, and the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Clause 19, drafting Amendment agreed to.

Question put, " That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 214.)

Clause 20 :—

Question put, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 314 ; Noes 106. (Division List No. 215.)

Clauses 21 and 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

Question put, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 152. (Division List No. 216.)

Clause 24, drafting Amendment agreed to.

Question put, " That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 269 ; Noes, 143. (Division List No. 217.)

Whereupon the CHAIRMAN left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty-three minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1907.

BARON HOOD.—Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Grosvenor Arthur Alexander Baron Hood of Catherington, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland, has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 796

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 796

London and North-Western Railway Bill.—A Petition of Messrs. Martin and Leslie, of 27, Abingdon Street, Westminster, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Middlesex County Council, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93, for presenting such petition has expired; read. and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered on Monday next, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition 796

Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 796

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—The Order made yesterday for the commitment of the Bill, discharged 796

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Committed for Tuesday next 796

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Tramway Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Committed 797

The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 797

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 797

Canal Toll and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 797

Oregon Mortgage Company Limited, Order Confirmation Bill.—To be read 3ª on Monday next 797

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Craven be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Viscount Ridley; read, and agreed to 797

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report and Papers relating to the Training of Teachers, for the year 1905–1906 797

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Statistical tables for the year 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 797

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill—The Lords following were named of the Select Committee—

L. Muskerry.
L. Ellenborough.
L. Ampthill.
L. Montagu of Beaulieu.
L. Brassey.
L. Joicey.

the Committee to meet on Monday the 17th instant, at Twelve o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman 797

LORD PLYMOUTH AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

The Earl of Plymouth 799
The Earl of Onslow 801
The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Earl Carrington) 802

Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day read for resuming the debate on the Motion for the Second Reading.

The Earl of Camperdown 804
Earl Carrington 805

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

House adjourned at Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 807

Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed 807

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Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [LORDS].—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 807

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to,—Bristol Corporation Bill, Burnley Corporation Bill, without Amendment 807

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Dalziel, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 807

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petitions against: from Earlestown; Everton (two); Holt Green; Knowsley; Rainford; Scarisbrick; Seaforth; and Sefton; to lie upon the Table 807

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Alves; Cawdor; and Paddington; to lie upon the Table 807

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against: from Elmswell; Ely; Lee; Truro; and Yeovil; to lie upon the Table 807

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, in favour; to lie upon the Table 808

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).—Petition from Birmingham, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 808

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society in favour; to lie upon the Table 808

SHOPS BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table 808

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report and Papers relating to the Training of Teachers for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 808

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Copy presented, of Statistical Tables for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 808

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3814 and 3815 (by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 808

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 808

SHORTAGE OF ENGINE ROOM ARTIFICERS.—Question, Mr. Bowerman (Deptford); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 809

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SALMON FISHERIES SOLD BY WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Runciman 809

PENSION OF SIR J. BAMPFYLDE FULLER.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 809

REPORT ON RIOTS AT CORNILLE.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 810

SALE OF THE ESTATE OF THE MISSES COOPER.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 810

SALE OF ESTATE OF MR. STAFFORD DELMEGE.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell 810

INTIMIDATION OF MR. BYRNE OF LUSMAGH.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 811

DISTURBANCES IN THE KILMORE DISTRICTS.—Questions, Captain Craig, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answers, Mr. Birrell 811

SHOOTING OUTRAGE AT BROADFORD, COUNTY CLARE.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Mr. Birrell 812

DISTURBANCES IN IRELAND.—Questions, Sir F. Banbury (City of London), Mr. John Rutherford (Lancashire, Darwen); Answers, Mr. Birrell 813

OUTDOOR RELIEF OF TENANTS OF UNION COTTAGES IN IRELAND.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 814

TENANT PURCHASERS IN COUNTY MEATH.—Question, Mr. Patrick White (Meath, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 814

KILMEEDY NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 815

BOYCOTTING OF MICHAEL BRADY.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.), Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 815

YEOMANRY AT POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS.—Question, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 818

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LEE-ENFIELD RIFLE.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 818

AMMUNITION FOR THE AUXILIARY FORCES.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 819

SUPERNUMERARY MAJORS.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 819

RIFLE BACK SIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 819

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War Department Land at Bexhill-on-Sea.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 819

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Cordite in India.—Question Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 820

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Official History of the South African War.—Question, Mr. Beckett, Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby); Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 821

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ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS' AGENTS.—Questions, Mr. Wedgwood; Answers, Mr. Tomkinson 858

SCOTTISH CROFTER LEASEHOLDERS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden 859

SCOTTISH LAND VALUES.—Question, Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. J. A. Pease (for Mr. Sinclair) 859

IRISH FLAX INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. J. Devlin; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 860

CHAIRMAN OF IRISH TOWN COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 860

MOHILL POST-OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Thomas F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 861

BELFAST ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 861

IRISH COUNCILS BILL.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Asquith (for Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman) 862

TERRITORIAL FORCES BILL.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 862

SCHOOL TEACHERS' EMOLUMENTS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Asquith 862

NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Asquith 863

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Questions, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire), Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester), and An Hon. Member; Questions, Mr. Asquith 863

ALL-BRITISH MAIL ROUTE.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Asquith 863

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Mr. Asquith 864

STANDING ORDERS.—Ordered, That so much of Standing Order No. 91 as fixes Five as the quorum of the Select Committee on Standing Orders be read and suspended.

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the Session, Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*Mr. Ellis*) 864

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (added in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Eugene Wason; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill); Mr. J. W. H. Thompson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill): Sir Thomas Whittaker and Mr. Duckworth; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill); Mr. Tennant and Mr. Acland Allen.

Reports to lie upon the Table 864

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Lawrence John Lumley Dundas, commonly known as the Earl of Ronaldshay, for the County of Middlesex (Hornsey Division) .. 865

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That the Consideration of the East India Revenue Accounts have precedence this day of the Business of Supply. —(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman*) 865

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Order for Committee read.

The Secretary of State for India (*Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs*) 865

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts)."

Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 887
Mr. G. A. Hardy (*Suffolk, Stowmarket*) 903
Dr. Rutherford (*Middlesex, Brentford*) 904

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Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House, whilst affirming the imperative necessity of maintaining peace and order in India, is of opinion that an inquiry by means of a Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission should be instituted into the causes at the root of the dissatisfaction.' "—(*Mr. George Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. E. W. Mason (Coventry) 914
Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.) 918
Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire) 923
Mr. Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 928
Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.) 932
The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 93
Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Southwark, Rotherhithe) 94

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 7TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sunderland Corporation Bill.—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 949

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions for alteration: From Bonhill; and, Carluke; to lie upon the Table 949

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petitions against: From Salford; Toxteth Park; and, Warrington (three); to lie upon the Table .. 949

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Ilford; Kilmaurs; and, Stewarton; to lie upon the Table 949

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against: From Bearley; Blyth; Clevedon; Haven Street; Leytonstone and Leyton; and, London; to lie upon the Table 94

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Mold, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 949

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Lichfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table 950

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

VENTILATION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Copy presented, of Second Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the Ventilation of Factories and Workshops. Part I., Report. Part II., Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 950

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS).—Copy presented, of Directory of Industrial Associations in the United Kingdom in 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 950

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th April; *Sir Francis Channing*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 180] 950

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Copy presented, of Letters Patent and Instructions relating to the Orange River Colony [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 950

CROWN AGENTS.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th March; *Mr. Austin Taylor*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 181] .. 950

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.—Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1907–8 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 182] 950

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

WHEAT IMPORTS AND PRICES IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—Question, Mr. Toulmin (Bury, Lancashire); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 951

DEPLETION OF HOME ESTABLISHMENTS OF ENGINE-ROOM ARTIFICERS.—Question, Mr. Bowerman (Deptford); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 955

PAY OF POST-OFFICE MESSENGERS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 955

POLICE EVIDENCE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 955

POLICE REPORTS ON LICENSING MATTERS.—Question, Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 956

MICROBES IN TRAMWAY TICKETS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 956

EMPLOYMENT OF PENSIONERS AS TEMPORARY OFFICERS IN PRISONS.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 956

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Publication of Report on Herring Curing.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 957

Payment of Prize Money to Heir of William Bell.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 957

Discharge of Sewage into the Thames Estuary at Southend.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. John Burns 958

Telegraphists Doing Sorting Work at Derby.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 958

Construction of a Road from Cahirciveen to Clogvoola.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 959

Irish Evicted Tenants—Reinstatement of Thomas Brady.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 959

Poor Relief Grant for Curlough.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Birrell 960

Intimidation in Ireland.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Birrell 960

Irish Grazing Land.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Birrell 960

Annual Inspection of Irish National Schools.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 961

Irish Primary Education.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 961

Selection (Standing) Committees.—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B: Sir Francis Channing and Mr. Wolff; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Akers-Douglas and Mr. Black.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C: Mr. Everett; and had appointed in substitution: Sir Francis Channing.

Reports to lie upon the Table 962

Marriage with Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Order for Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

Viscount Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 962
Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 965

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be re-committed to a Select Committee."—(*Viscount Helmsley.*)

Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 974
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 975
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 977

Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the question be now put."

The House divided.—Ayes, 179; Noes, 27. (Division List No. 218.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be re-committed to a Select Committee."

The House divided.—Ayes, 29; Noes, 182. (Division List No. 219.)

Bill, as amended, considered.

Mr. Cave 985
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 986

New clause—

"In this Act the word 'sister' shall include a sister of the half-blood.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Brought up, and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Brampton Gurdon 986
Lord R. Cecil 986
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 987

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Sir F. Banbury 987
Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) 988

New clause:—

"This Act shall not apply to Ireland."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

Brought up, and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Brampton Gurdon 989
Viscount Helmsley 989
Earl Percy 990
Mr. Flynn (Cork County, N.) 992
Lord Edmund Talbot (Sussex, Chichester) 993
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 993
Sir Henry Fowler 996
Mr. Talbot (Oxford University) 998

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Sir BRAMPTON GURDON rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 215 ; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 220.)

Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put accordingly, and negatived.

Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities 1001

New clause—

"This Act shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Brought up and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Brampton Gurdon 1005
Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 1006
Lord R. Cecil 1006
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 1007
Mr. Stewart (Greenock 1008

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 240. (Division List No. 221.)

Earl Percy 1009

New clause—

"This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and nine."—(*Earl Percy.*)

Brought up and read a first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Rawlinson 1012
Sir Brampton Gurdon 1014
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 1015
Lord R. Cecil 1016

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 39 ; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 222.)

And, it being after Five of the Clock, further Proceedings on Consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, to be further considered upon Friday next.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at fourteen minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 10TH JUNE, 1907.

BARON HOOD.—Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Thursday last, that the right of the Baron Hood to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such report has been made and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland 1021

VISCOUNT MIDLETON.—Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of William St. John Fremantle, Viscount Midleton in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1021

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1021

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 1021

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Petition of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery by her agents, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, praying that substituted service of a copy of the Bill, together with notice of the Second Reading thereof, and all other notices or orders connected therewith may be made upon Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Company, at 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; Presented and read; and to be taken into consideration on Wednesday next .. 1021

Taff Vale Railway Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th of May and Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed for To-morrow .. 1022

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1022

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill; Shanklin Gas Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1022

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London and North Western Railway Bill.—Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition of the Middlesex County Council. Leave given to present the said Petition .. 1022

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No 1) Bill [H.L.]—Committed 1022

Great Central Railway Bill.—Report of the Board of Trade; laid before the House (pursuant to Standing Order No. 90) 1022

Destructive Insects and Pests Bill [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of county council of Haddington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1022

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ᵃ (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1022

Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3ᵃ (according to order), and passed 1022

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL REGISTRATION BILL.—Further papers respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of 29th May last) and to be printed. (No. 65) .. 1022

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Regulations for technical schools, schools of art, and other schools and classes (day and evening) for further education (from 1st August, 1907, to 31st July, 1908) 1023

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Letters patent and instructions relating to the Orange River Colony 1023

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 3814, Sweden (Stockholm); No. 3815, Hayti 1023

VENTILATION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Second report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the ventilation of factories and workshops. Part I. Report. Part II. Appendix 1023

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS.—Directory of industrial associations in the United Kingdom in 1907.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1023

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS FOUNDATION.—Statement of the estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers Foundation, for the year 1907–1908 1023

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account of receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-Up Act, from 1st January to 31st December, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1023

MERCANTILE MARINE—LOAD LINE.

Lord Muskerry 1023

Moved, "That there be laid before the House a Return showing the particular vessels more deeply immersed under the new official regulations, permitting the deeper loading of British merchant vessels, giving in each case the extent of their deeper immersion, their type of build, and their age."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

The Earl of Granard 1027
The Marquess of Salisbury 1028
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 1030
Lord Ellenborough 1030
Lord Brassey 1031

On Question, Motion by leave withdrawn.

THE TERRITORIAL FORCES.

The Earl of Wemyss 1032
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 103

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 10TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Wisbech Water Bill [Lords]; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1041

Provisional Order Bill (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 1042

Tyne Improvement Bill [LORDS] (by Order) (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments 1042

Clyde Navigatian Provisional Order Confirmation Bill.—Consideration deferred till To-morrow 1042

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered; to be read the third time To-morrow 1042

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Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—" To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Caledonian Railway," presented by Mr. Sinclair ; read the first time ; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 18th June, and to be printed. [Bill 224] 1042

Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies' Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1042

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable to the New Junction Canal of the Undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation." [Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the councils of the administrative county of Surrey and the county boroughs of Birkenhead and Southport to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [Lords] 1042

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 227.] 1043

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 228] 1043

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill (BY ORDER).—Lords' Amendments considered—

Lords' Amendment, in page 1, line 3, leave out " in this Act called ' the Council ' " read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendment, in page 2, line 7, leave out " water," the next Amendment read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Motion made, and Question, " That the debate be now adjourned "—(*Mr. Mooney*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow 1043

PETITION.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petition from Earlestown, against ; to lie upon the Table 1043

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (POWERS IN IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th May; *Captain Craig*]; to lie upon the Table 1043

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Regulations for Technical Schools, Schools of Art, and other Schools and Classes for further Education (from 1st August, 1907, to 31st July, 1908) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1044

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from 1st January to 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 183.] 1044

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 184.] 1044

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3816 to 3820 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1044

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.—Copy presented, of the Convention of Rome, dated 26th May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1044

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LIST OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—DETAILS OF ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. Harvey (Rochdale); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1044

THE "FOREST HALL"—PILOT'S REMUNERATION.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1045

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS BY GUARDIANS.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1045

ENNISKILLEN POST OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1047

ARTILLERY FOR INDIAN ARMY.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Hobhouse 1047

TERRITORIAL FORCE—MEN REQUIRED IN CIVIL POSITIONS IN THE EVENT OF WAR. Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport); Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 1047

SEWAGE DISPOSAL GOVERNMENT BILL.—Question, Sir Frederick Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1048

MOTOR OMNIBUSES.—Question, Mr. Chiozza-Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 1048

GERMAN SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMME.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1050

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BRITISH SHIPBUILDING.—Question, Mr. Nield ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1050

NAVAL LANDS (VOLUNTEERS) BILL—DATE OF SECOND READING.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. 1051

RENEWAL OF FREE KITS TO NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVES.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1051

ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION AT MILLBANK.—Question, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton) ; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1051

STAMP DUTY ON WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICIES.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone) ; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1052

TRANSFER OF PORTIONS OF THE MADRAS RAILWAY.—Question, Sir Lewis McIver (Edinburgh, W.) ; Answer, Mr. Secretary Morley 1052

INDIAN ARMY ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster ; Answer, Mr. Secretary Morley 1053

EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENT OF RESIDUAL CAPITATION GRANT.—Question Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1053

IRISH RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Hayden ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1054

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—APPLICATION OF MICHAEL O'CONNOR.—Question, Mr. Thomas F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1054

PURCHASE OF THE ESTATE OF MAJOR ST. GEORGE FRENCH.—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1055

THE SARAH FLANNERY ESTATE—CASE OF JAMES FARRELL—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1055

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—CASE OF O'LEARY *v.* SHERLOCK.—Question, Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1056

BELFAST DOCK STRIKE DISTURBANCE.—Question, Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1056

DRIVING OF CATTLE OFF IRISH GRAZING LANDS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1057

POSITION OF SURVEYORS OF THE STAFF FOR ENGINEER SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) ; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane 1058

RETURN OF CROWN AGENTS' BUSINESS.—Question, Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1058

GRANT OF LAND TO MR. R. B. COLE IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1058

BIRR POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) ; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1059

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APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT TEACHER TO BROUGHTON NATIONAL SCHOOL, HAMPSHIRE).—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1095

SUPPORT OF RELATIVES.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam (Monmouth Boroughs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1060

MANUFACTURE OF CORDITE BY KYNOCH, LTD.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Sir John Walton 1060

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION OFFICE.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1060

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY LOCAL SERVICE BETWEEN CITY AND SPA ROAD AND SOUTHWARK PARK.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Rotherhithe); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1061

ENGINES FOR SALMON FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Hay Morgan (Cornwall, Truro); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1061

INCOME-TAX ON PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1062

IRISH LAND LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1062

APPLICATION FOR LABOURER'S COTTAGE IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1063

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ADMIRALTY PURCHASE.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1063

SALTBURN FIRING ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1064

DEFECTIVE CARTRIDGES.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1065

BALLYKINLAR CAMP ROAD TRAFFIC.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1066

WALKING-OUT UNIFORMS.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1066

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FREE PARDONS.—Question, Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1085

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FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1090

POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND RURAL ROADS AND FOOTPATHS.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1091

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AUSTRALIAN MAIL SUBSIDY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1092

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TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES.—Question, Mr. Hay Morgan (Cornwall, Truro); Answer, Mr. Lough 1093

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL JUDGE.—Question, Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1094

KING'S LYNN CROWN TENANT.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.), Mr. Lea; Answer, The Treasurer of the Household (Sir Edward Strachey, Somersetshire) 1094

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INSANITARY SCHOOL IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1096

COMPULSORY HIRING OF LAND.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1096

CROFTERS GRAZING IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1097

DOG POISONING IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1097

LAND VALUES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1097

IRISH EXHIBITION IN DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) .. 1098

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POYNTZPASS LEVEL CROSSING.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1099

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1101

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill): Mr Barnard; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Toulmin. Report to lie upon the Table 1101

Municipal Elections Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee A.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 185.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 185.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration To-morrow, and be printed. [Bill 225] 1101

NEW BILLS.

Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 3) Bill.—"To amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901," presented by Mr. Steadman; supported by Mr. Thorne; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th July, and to be printed. [Bill 226] 1101

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 28:—

Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 1102

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 18, after the word 'Order,' to insert the words, 'and the commanding officer of which has signified in writing his consent thereto.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Haldane, Haddington*) 1102

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 1102

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 18, after the word 'thereof,' to insert the words 'shall continue to be officially described in such a manner as to preserve any national or special description of the said unit, and'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

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Mr. Haldane 1103
Sir Howard Vincent 1103
Mr. Carlile (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 1104
Mr. Rees (*Montgomery Boroughs*) 1105
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 1106
Mr. Haldane 1107
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 1107
Mr. Ashley 1108
Viscount Morpeth (*Birmingham, S.*) 1108
Mr. Arnold Forster (*Croydon*) 1109

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'continue' to insert the words 'wherever possible.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Mr. Haldane 1110
Sir Howard Vincent 1110
Col. Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 1111
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 1111

Amendment to the Amendment agreed to.

Question proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

Col. Kenyon Slaney 1112
Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher (*Sussex, Lewes*) 1113
Viscount Morpeth 1113
Sir Gilbert Parker 1114
Mr. Haldane 1114
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1114
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (*Wiltshire, Chippenham*) 1115
Mr. Ashley 1115
Col. Kenyon-Slaney 1115
Mr. Courtney Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1116
Sir Howard Vincent 1116
Lord Balcarres 1118

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 223.)

Sir Howard Vincent 1121

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 26, to leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words, 'any person commissioned, enlisted, or enrolled in the Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteer Forces before the passing of this Act will be entitled upon application, in writing to his commanding officer, to a free discharge from any contract, obligation, or undertaking he may have entered into.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 1122
Col. R. Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 1122
Mr. Haldane 1123

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Howard Vincent 1123

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, after the word 'to,' to insert the words, 'or held for the benefit of.' "—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Ashley 1124
Mr. Haldane 1124

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, to leave out all after the word 'unit' to the end of the subsection, and insert the words 'so however that all property so transferred, shall as from the date of the transfer be held by the association for the benefit in like manner of the corresponding unit of the Territorial Force or for such other purposes as the association, with the consent of such corresponding unit, to be ascertained in the prescribed manner, shall direct; and any question which may arise as to whether any property is transferred to an association, or as to the trusts or purposes upon or for which it is or ought to be held, shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.' "—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," put, and agreed to.

Proposed words there inserted.

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 29 :—

Mr. Ashley 1125

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 31, to leave out Subsection (1)."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'and' in page 20, line 34, stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 1127
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1129

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Mr. Courtenay Warner 1138
Sir Howard Vincent 1140
The Under-Secretary of State for India (*Mr. C. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.*) .. 1142
Sir Gilbert Parker 1143
Major Dunne (*Walsall*) 1146
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 1148
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder 1151
Viscount Morpeth 1154
Mr. Rees 1157
Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 1157
Mr. Wyndham 1162
Mr. Haldane 1169
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 1176

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 302 ; Noes, 108. (Division List No. 224.)

And, it being half-past Ten of the Clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Question put, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 310 ; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 225.)

Clause 30 agreed to.

Clause 31 :—

Question put, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 286 ; Noes, 108. (Division List No. 226.)

Remaining clauses and schedules agreed to.

Bill reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 229.]

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS [STAMP DUTY].—

Resolution reported, " That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an *ad valorem* stamp duty on the statement of the amount contributed or to be contributed by a limited partner, or of any increase in such amount, of five shillings for every one hundred pounds and any fraction of one hundred pounds over any multiple of one hundred pounds of the amount so contributed or to be contributed or of the increase of that amount, as the case may be, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to establish Limited Partnerships ; and to make provision for recovery of such stamp duty, with interest thereon, in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

Adjourned at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 11TH JUNE, 1907.

VISCOUNT MIDLETON.—Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Monday last, that the right of the Viscount Midleton to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such Report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland 1193

THE LORD PENRHYN.—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father .. 1193

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Armagh Urban District Council.

Also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with: Great Central Railway.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1193

Great Central Railway Bill.—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next 1193

Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 1193

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow. 1193

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Reported without amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 1193

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 1194

Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Taff Vale Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 1194

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª 1194

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1194

Boston Spa Gas Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; and passed, and returned to the Commons 1194

Brockenhurst Gas Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendment; and passed, and returned to the Commons 1194

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Brought from the Commons 1194

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 1194

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment: The Report thereof to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 66.) 1194

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 1^{a}, to be printed; and referred to the Examiners (No. 67) 1194

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—To be read 2^{a} To-morrow: (The Earl Carrington) 1194

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]. (No. 68).—A Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Tralee, and Fenit, and Wicklow: And 1194

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]. (No. 69). A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Southwold:—Were presented by the Earl Beauchamp (for the Lord Granard (*E. Granard*): Then it was moved, That the Order of the 20th day of March last " That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 2nd day of May next," be dispensed with in respect of the said Bills; and that the Bills be now read 1^{a}; agreed to: Bills read 1^{a} accordingly; to be printed and referred to the Examiners 1194

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 522. Falkland Islands. (Report for 1906) 1195

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3816. Russia (Taganrog).
No. 3817. China (Chinkiang).
No. 3818. Greece (Thessaly).
No. 3819. Germany (Dantzig).
No. 3820. Netherlands (Java) 1195

POST OFFICE (UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION).—Convention of Rome. (26th May, 1906.)

Agreement for the exchange of insured letters and boxes. (26th May, 1906) 1195

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of December, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1195

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.—Accounts of receipts and expenditure under the Act for year 1906 1195

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).—Abstract of accounts of fines accounted for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks, for the year 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1195

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 11TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered, to be read the third time 1196

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill (BY ORDER).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question proposed on consideration of Lords Amendments (10th June), " That this House doth agree with the Lords in the Amendment, in page 2, line 7, to leave out ' water.' "

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendment agreed to 1196

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER); General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Bill [Lords] (by Order); Harrison's Patent Bill [Lords] (by Order); Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [Lords] (by Order); Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords] (by Order); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order); Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords] (by Order); Selsey Water Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 1196

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders No 5 Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1196

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.—Read a second time and committed 1196

Clyde Navigation Provisional Order Confirmation Bill (BY ORDER).—Considered; to be read the third time upon Thursday 1196

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to:—Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

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South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill; Shanklin Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aston Manor (extension to Erdington), Chesham (Amendment), Hipperholme (Amendment), Lytham, Newark (Amendment), Penrith (Amendment), Pontefract, and Stockport (Amendment)." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the Natural Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty." [National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Corporation of the county borough of Birkenhead to obtain a supply of water from the rivers Alwen and Brenig in the county of Denbigh; and for other purposes." [Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled "An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Glasgow to construct new tramways and a storm-water overflow; to extend the period for the construction of sewage works and the acquisition of properties; to make provision with reference to the testing of the illuminating power of the gas supply, the stand-by supply of electrical energy, the police courts, the sale of coal, weights and measures, the filling up of casual vacancies in the Corporation, the meetings of the Corporation, the notification of births, the representation of the Corporation in the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, the borrowing of further moneys for the tramways and the sewage undertakings of the Corporation; and for other purposes." [Glasgow Corporation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Sheffield to construct additional tramways and to execute certain street widenings; to confer on the Corporation further powers with respect to their water undertaking, their markets undertaking, and their electrical undertaking; to make further provisions with respect to the regulation of traffic and sanitary matters in the city; and for other purposes." [Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords.]

And, also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for transferring to the Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, certain undertakings authorised under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888; and for other purposes." [Electric Supply Corporation Bill [Lords] 1197

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [Lords]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [Lords]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1198

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 230] 1198

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PETITIONS.

ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION BILL.—Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1198

BUILDING LANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 1198

BUTTER AND MARGARINE BILL.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1198

CHARACTER NOTE BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, against; to lie upon the Table 1198

COMPANIES BILL [LORDS].—Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1199

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against, to lie upon the Table 1199

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions for alteration: From Haddington; and, Prestonpans; to lie upon the Table 1199

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petitions against: From Saint Andrew's; and, Southport; to lie upon the Table 1199

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petition from Stepney, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1199

FEUS AND BUILDING LEASES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 1199

HOME WORK BILL.—Petition from Govan, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. 1199

LICENSING ACTS.—Petitions for alteration of Law:—From Birkdale; and, Bolton; to lie upon the Table 1199

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1199

OPEN SPACES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1199

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1199

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1199

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).—Petition from Richmond, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1200

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Govan, against; to lie upon the Table 1200

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1200

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PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table 1200

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.—Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1200

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1200

RIGHTS OF WAY (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table 1200

RIGHTS OF WAY (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1200

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Matlock, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 1200

SHOPS (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table .. 1200

TROUT FISHING.—Petition from Stonehouse, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1200

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.—Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1200

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.—Petition of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, against, praying to be heard by counsel; referred to the Select Committee on the Bill 1201

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1201

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.—Account presented, of the Receipts and Expenditure under the Act for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 186] 1201

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of Fines accounted for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks for 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 187] 1201

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Report No. 522 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1201

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) (VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS).—Copy ordered, "of General Introduction to the Return (H.C. 178, 1906) made in compliance with an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 23rd day of February, 1906, together with appendices, tabular summaries, a list of additions and corrections, and a key to the symbols used in the Return."—(*Mr. McKenna*) 1201

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

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POOR LAW VALUATION OF CONNAUGHT.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1203

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New Hebrides.—Question, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1229

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CRANNAGH FARM BOYCOTT.—Question, Mr. Barrie; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1244

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY TRIAL.—Questions, Mr. Barrie, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1244

IRISH POOR LAW REFORM.—Question, Mr. Barrie; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1245

GALWAY LAND ACT ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Hazleton (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1245

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WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1247

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES BILL.—Question, Mr. Mackarness, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston), Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1248

SCOTTISH BILLS.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire), Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester), Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1248

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1249

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) and Sir Walter Foster; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1249

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Married Women's Property Bill): Mr. Micklem, Sir Henry Kimber, Mr. Radford, Mr. Berridge, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Astbury, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Bertram, Mr. Napier. Sir Edward Boyle, Mr. Haddock, Mr. Morton, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Silcock, and Mr. Hazleton.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; that they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Incest Bill): Colonel Lockwood, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Crossley, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Mr. Goddard Clarke, Mr. Maclean, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. George Hardy, Mr. Weir, Mr. Hedges, Earl of Ronaldshay, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Houston, Mr. Robert Pearce, and Mr. Russell Rea.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment Bill): Sir Howard Vincent, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Warner, Sir Philip Muntz, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Crosfield, Mr. Alan Gardner, Major Dunne, Mr. Freeman-Thomas, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Luttrell, Mr. George Greenwood, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. Leverton Harris.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Burns, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Massie, and Sir Thomas Whittaker; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Secretary Gladstone, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Silcock.

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Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee B the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Sir William Anson, Mr. Rawlinson, Sir Edward Carson, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Lyttelton, Mr. Adkins, Mr. George Greenwood, Mr. Stanger, Mr. Buckmaster, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Bottomley, Mr. Mallet, Mr. Osmond Williams, Sir Thomas Roe, and Mr. Lloyd Morgan.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee C the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Imported Watch-cases Bill): Colonel M'Calmont, Sir Samuel Scott, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, Mr. William Nicholson, Mr. B. S. Straus, Mr. Montagu, Mr. Wynford Philipps, Mr. Myer, Mr. George H. Faber, Mr. Seddon, Mr. William Johnson, Mr. Waterlow, Mr. Haworth, and Mr. Cairns.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1251

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the Business of Supply, if under discussion when the Business is postponed, be resumed and proceeded with, though opposed, after the interruption of Business, notwithstanding anything in Standing Order No. 15."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 227) .. 1252

SUPPLY [12TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

1. £1,996,400, Victualling and Clothing for the Navy.

The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee*) .. 1255
Mr. Hunt (*Shropshire, Ludlow*) 1262
Mr. Bowles (*Lambeth, Norwood*) 1262
Mr. Leif Jones (*Westmorland, Appleby*) 1266
Major Seely (*Liverpool, Abercromby*) 1269
Mr. Arthur Lee (*Hampshire, Fareham*) 1271
Mr. Hunt 1272
Mr. Bramsdon (*Portsmouth*) 1272
The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (*Mr. Lambert, Devonshire, South Molton*) 1273
Mr. Edmund Robertson 1276
Mr. Havelock Wilson (*Middlesbrough*) 1276

Vote agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

2. £4,060,000, Supplies and Clothing.

The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.) 1277

Vote agreed to.

3. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1.671,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Armaments and Engineer Stores, including Technical Committees, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis) 1278

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,670,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Bellairs.*)

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1286
Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon) 1291
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 1292
Mr. H. J. Tennant (Berwickshire) 1295
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) 1296
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1297
Mr. Edmund Robertson 1298
Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) 1299
Mr. Haldane 1305
Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) 1300
Captain Hervey (Bury St Edmunds) 1301
Mr. Mond (Chester) 1301
Mr. Haldane 1301
Mr. Bowles 1302
Mr. Bellairs 1303
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 1305
Mr. Ernest Lamb (Rochester) 1306

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 23 ; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 228.)

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill (BY ORDER).—Order read, for Second Reading.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 1309
Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing) 1309

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

London County Council (Money) Bill (By Order).—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) 1310

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir Edwin Cornwall (Bethnal Green, N.E.) 1311

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Supply—Army Estimates.

Postponed proceeding on original Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,671,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Armaments and Engineer Stores, including Technical Committees, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908," resumed.

Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 1313
Mr. Haldane 1314

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,436,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Barrack Construction, for purchases of Land, and for Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad (including Staff in connection therewith) which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 1314
Mr. Haldane 1316
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 1317
Mr. Haldane 1319
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1320

Sir C. Dilke 1321
Mr. Buchanan 1321
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 1322
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.) 1322
Mr. Buchanan 1322
Lord Balcarres 1323
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 1324
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 1324
Mr. J. Ward 1325
Sir F. Banbury 1326
Mr. Haldane 1326

Motion made, and Question put, " That a sum not exceeding £2,345,900 be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 38 ; Noes, 187. (Division List No. 229.)

Original Question again proposed.

Captain Craig 1329
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 1330
Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 1332
Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.) 1332
Mr. Haldane 1332
Mr. Claude Hay 1335

Motion made, and Question put, " That a sum not exceeding £2,435,500 be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Claude Hay,*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 39 ; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 230.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again To morrow.

Australian States Constitution Bill.—Order for the Second Reading read.

It being after Eleven o'clock, and objection being taken

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1339

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-three minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Petition of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery, by he Agents, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, praying that substituted service of a copy

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of the Bill, together with notice of the Second Reading thereof, and all other notices or orders connected therewith, may be made upon Messrs. Field, Roscoe and Company, at 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. Considered (according to order). Counsel called in. Witnesses examined. Ordered that service of a copy of the Bill and of the Order for the Second Reading thereof upon the said Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Company be deemed as good service of the said Bill and Order as if the same had been personally served upon Captain St. John Brown Killery. Bill to be read 2^a on Thursday the 20th instant. The usual Orders made 1341

York (Micklegate) Strays Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1341

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Committed .. 1341

London County Council (Money) Bill.—Brought from the Commons, read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners 1241

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 1341

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed 1341

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.,) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Leave given to the Joint Committee to report from time to time 1341

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl Bathurst and the Viscount Hill be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Craven and the Lord Hastings. Read, and agreed to 1341

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow 1342

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a To-morrow 1342

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRINIDAD.—Panama Isthmian Canal Labour Contract 1342

TREATY SERIES, No. 15 (1907).—International Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armies in the field; signed at Geneva, 6th July, 1906. (British ratification deposited at Berne, 16th April, 1907) 1342

CHINA, No. 1 (1907).—Report, by Mr. W. J. Garnett, of a journey through the provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu (with two Maps) 1342

MISCELLANEOUS, No. 3 (1907).—Reports from His Majesty's representatives in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies respecting the application of the principle of proportional representation to public elections 1342

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.
No. 3821. Greece (Finances for 1906).

Presented (by Command), and Ordered to lie on the Table 1342

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, confirming a by-law made by the Boston Pilot Commissioners in substitution for No. 5 of the by-laws approved by Order in Council of 28th November, 1889 1343

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.—Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, applying the Provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, to the Territory of Swaziland 1343

GREENWICH HOSPITAL ACT, 1865.—Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, approving a memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the grant of a pension to Mr. J. Baker, one of the masters of the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich 1343

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSION ACT, 1865.—Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, approving a memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sanction to the payment of special allowances to Officers selected for the Staff of the War Course College at Portsmouth 1343

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Report of the proceedings of the Board of Trade up to the 31st December, 1906, and of the proceedings of the Light Railway Commissioners up to the same date.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1343

STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE, ETC.—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit until further order. (No. 70) 1343

Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill [H.L.] [Second Reading].—Order for the day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 1343

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 1351

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Halsbury.*)

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The Marquess of Lansdowne 1355
Lord James of Hereford 1306
The Earl of Meath 1363
Lord Allendale 1366
The Lord Bishop of Southwark 1368
Lord Belper 1371
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1373
Viscount St. Aldwyn 1374
The Marquess of Londonderry 1376
The Marquess of Northampton 1379
The Earl of Camperdown 1380
The Lord Privy Seal (The Marquess of Ripon) 1381
Earl Cawdor 1386

On Question, whether "now" shall stand part of the Motion, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 111 ; Not-Contents, 33.

Resolved in the affirmative ; Bill read 2ª and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Factory and Workshop Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day read for receiving Report of Amendment.

The Earl of Lytton 1387
Earl Beauchamp 1388
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1389
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury] 1389
Earl Beauchamp 1389

Amendments reported, according to Order.

Amendment moved—

> " In Clause 5, page 3, lines 31 and 32, to leave out the words ' not exceeding two in number.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> " In Clause 5, page 3, line 32, lo leave out the word ' general.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Lytton 1390

Amendment moved—

> " In Clause 6, page 5, line 8, to leave out from the word ' apprenticeship ' to the word ' and ' in line 12, and to insert the words ' the Secretary of State may arrange with the Department that the premises shall, as respects the matters dealt with by the principal Act, be inspected by an inspector appointed under that Act.' "—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.].—Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1391

House adjourned at five minutes before Eight o'clock, till Tomorrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [LORDS]; Sunderland Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1391

United Methodist Church Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 1391

Leith Burgh Order Confirmation Bill.—" To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Leith," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Thursday, 20th June, and to be printed. [Bill 231] 1391

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords] and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses for Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Vadidation) Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear Council and examine Witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned think fit to be heard by Counsel and produce Witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General*) .. 1391

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1392

Barry Railway Bill.—Reported with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1392

Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill.—Second Reading to-morrow 1392

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to :—Brockenhurst Gas Bill, with an Amendment ; Boston Spa Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to : Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords], without Amendment 1392

PETITIONS.

CONGO FREE STATE.—Petition from Beeston Hill for protection of the Native Races ; to lie upon the Table 1392

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.—Petition from Southport, against ; to lie upon the Table 1392

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from Southport, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table 1392

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour : From Ancrum ; Hawick ; and, Jedburgh ; to lie upon the Table 1392

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).—Petition from Houghton-le-Spring, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table 1393

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.—Two Petitions from London and other places, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1393

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.—Petitions against, praying to be heard by counsel ; From Bristol Pilots' Association ; Cardiff Pilotage Board and Pilots ; Gloucester Pilotage Board and Pilots ; Newport Pilotage Board and Pilots ; Pilots of the Port of Swansea ; and, Port Talbot Pilotage Board and Pilots ; referred to the Select Committee on the Bill 1393

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRINIDAD.—Copy presented, of the Panama Isthmian Canal Labour Contract [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1393

TREATY SERIES (No. 15, 1907).—Copy presented, of International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field. Signed at Geneva, 16th July, 1906. British Ratification deposited at Berne, 16th April, 1907 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. 1393

CHINA (No. 1, 1907).—Copy presented, of Report by Mr. W. J. Garnett on a Journey through the Provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu, with two maps [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1393

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH COLONIES) (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 3, 1907).—Copy presented, of Reports from His Majesty's Representatives in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies respecting the Application of the Principle of Proportional Representation to Public Elections [Address 18th June, 1906 ; *Mr. John Robertson*] [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1393

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3821 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. 1394

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PUNJAB LAND COLONISATION BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th May; *Sir Henry Cotton*]; to lie upon the Table 1394

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade up to the 31st December, 1906, and of the Proceedings of the Light Railway Commissioners up to the same date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 188] 1394

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSION ACT, 1865.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, approving a memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sanction to the payment of Special Allowances to Officers selected for the Staff of the War Course College at Portsmouth [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1394

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, confirming a By-law made by the Boston Pilot Commissioners in substitution for No. 5 of the By-laws approved by Order in Council of 28th November, 1889 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1394

GREENWICH HOSPITAL ACT, 1865.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, approving a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the grant of a Pension to Mr. J. Baker, one of the Masters of the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1394

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, applying the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, to the Territory of Swaziland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1394

ALLOTMENTS AND SMALL HOLDINGS.—Copy ordered, "of the Allotments Acts, 1887 and 1890, the Small Holdings Act, 1892, and Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Local Government Act, 1894."—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 189] 1395

EAST INDIA (EXCISE COMMITTEE).—Address for "Return of Orders of the Government of India on Chapters III. to VI., VII., VIII., and X. of the Report of the Excise Committee."—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts*) 1395

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—Return ordered, "(i.) Of the Companies registered during the year ended the 31st day of December, 1906, which filed a prospectus and to which certificates to commence business have been granted, stating—

(1) The date of Registration.
(2) The date of the prospectus.
(3) The amount of the nominal capital.
(4) The amount of each share.
(5) The amount issued or to be issued otherwise than for cash.
(6) The amount offered for subscription in cash.
(7) The amount underwritten.
(8) The commission for underwriting.
(9) The minimum subscription required.
(10) The amount allotted before commencing business.
(11) The amounts per share payable on application and allotment.
(12) The total directors' share qualification, if any; and
(13) The date of the certificate to commence business.

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(ii.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which filed a prospectus, but to which certificates to commence business have not been granted, stating the particulars specified in (i.) so far as they are applicable.

(iii.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which filed a declaration that the Company " does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares."

(iv.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which have not filed a prospectus or a declaration that the Company " does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares," and stating the particulars specified in (i.) so far as they are applicable.

(v.) Of the Companies which were dissolved or struck off the register during the year 1906.

(vi.) Of the total number of Companies dissolved during the year 1906 (1) by order of the Court; (2) after voluntary liquidation; and (3) pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1900.

(vii.) Of the total number and nominal paid-up and considered as paid-up capital of the Companies registered during the year 1906 in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, respectively, distinguishing limited Companies from unlimited, and Companies registered with a nominal capital from Companies registered without such capital.

(viii.) Of the total number and paid-up capital, including the amounts considered as paid on vendors and other shares, of all Companies having a share capital which were on the register on the 30th day of April, 1907, except such Companies as were in course of liquidation or removal from the register under the provisions of Section 7 of the Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1900.

(ix.) Of the total number and nominal capital of the Companies registered in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, in every year since the commencement of the Companies Act, 1862, to 1906, inclusive.

(x.) Of the fees and capital duty paid in respect of Registered Companies during the year 1906."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) 1395

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

COSTS OF IRISH UNIONS AND ASYLUMS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1397

CONDITION OF ROAD BETWEEN BALLYNAHINCH AND SPA, COUNTY DOWN.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1398

PURCHASE OF THE MANOR SHAMROCK ESTATE, COUNTY FERMANAGH.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1398

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF MRS. MARY O'DEA.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1399

RE-INSTATEMENT OF THE ELY EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1399

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ARREARS OF RENT ON THE FAITHLEY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Ffrench; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1400

PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891—THE TREASURY AND SECTION 2.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1400

DESTROYERS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1400

FRENCH OWNERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS FLYING BRITISH FLAG.—Question, Sir George Doughty (Great Grimsby); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1401

VALUE OF BRITISH GOODS IMPORTED UNDER PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS INTO CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, AND SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Sir George Doughty; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George.. 1401

REPAYMENT TO DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HALF-SALARIES OF SANITARY OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Staveley-Hill (Staffordshire, Kingswinford); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1402

COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS, PUBLICATION OF REPORT.—Question, Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1402

LOANS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR ERECTION OF SCHOOL, EXTENSION OF TIME FOR REPAYMENT.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1402

RECORD OF EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 1403

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE COLONIES AND NAVAL DEFENCE.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1403

MESSRS. KYNOCH'S CONTRACT.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1404

CIVIL TRAINING FOR SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perth, E.) 1404

VOLUNTEER DECORATIONS.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 1405

ARMY RATIONS.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire Ludlow); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 1405

CADET CORPS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 1406

TRANSVAAL LOAN.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1406

TRANSVAAL PRISONS.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 1406

Wick Bay Fisheries.—Question, Mr. R. L. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) for Sir Edward Grey 1407

Municipal Borrowings in Foreign Countries.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1407

Income Tax Forms.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. 1408

Messrs. Kynoch's Contracts.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1408

Fish-Curing Industry.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1409

Railway Companies and Subscriptions.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1410

Manufactured Goods.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1410

Caithness Mail Service.—Question, Mr. R. L. Harmsworth; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1411

Secondary Schools.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) .. 1411

Alness River Salmon Fishery.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1412

Irish Fish Brand.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange) 1412

Prosecutions for Unlawful Assembly.—Questions, Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.), Captain Craig (Down, E.), Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.), Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Mr. Cherry 1413

Labourers (Ireland) Act Loans.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1415

Irish Lists of Voters and Jurors.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1415

Irish Poor Law Commission Report.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1416

Labourers (Ireland) Act.—Question, Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1417

Bann and Lough Neagh Drainage.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix), Mr. Mooney, and Mr. Charles Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1418

Drainage of the Barrow.—Question, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. J. Devlin (Belfast, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 1418

IRISH POLICE DISTRIBUTION.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1420

IMPRISONMENT IN DEFAULT OF SURETIES FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.—Question, Captain Craig, Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Moore; Answer, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker 1420

MANSFIELD ESTATE, COUNTY DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1421

THOMASTOWN GRAZING FARM DISPUTE.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1422

CATTLE DRIVING IN EAST GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.) Mr. Pike Pease, Mr. Kilbride, and Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker 1422

JUDGE WAKELEY ON THE CONDITION OF COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale, Captain Craig, Mr. Moore; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1424

BALLINA GAELIC LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. J. Devlin, Mr. Kilbride, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.), Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.), Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker 1425

KING'S COUNTY EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Sir Walter Nugent (Westmeath, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1428

FARRIGANS (DONEGAL) EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1428

INSTRUCTION IN IRISH.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1429

SCHOOL TEACHERS' SALARIES.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1429

DROMAGH UNTENANTED LANDS.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1430

ATHENRY SHEEP AND CATTLE RAIDS.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1430

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1431

BALLINTUBBER RAID—LORD DENMAN'S SPEECH.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1431

DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND MAGISTERIAL FUNCTIONS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1432

FEES FOR INSTRUCTION IN IRISH.—Questions, Mr. Gwynn (Galway), Mr. Boland, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. J. Devlin; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1433

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS' RETURN.—Question, Mr. Moore; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1433

IRISH FISHERY RIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1434

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF MRS. SCULLY.—Questions, Mr. Joyce; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1434

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Questions, Mr. Pike Pease, Mr. Charles Craig; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1435

SIR HENRY BURKE'S GALWAY ESTATE.—Questions, Captain Craig; Answers, Mr. Birrell, Mr. T. L. Corbett 1436

MR. CHARLES CLARKE'S THURLES FARM.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1437

BALLINTUBBER PROSECUTION—MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION.—Questions, Captain Craig; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1437

LARNE SCHOOL HOUSE.—Question, Colonel McCalmont (Antrim, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1438

BENMORE FARM RAID.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. T. L. Corbett; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1438

KILLESCRAGH RAID.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker 1439

KILTULLA FARM RAID.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig, Captain Donelan, Mr. Kilbride; Answers, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker 1440

DROMARD UNTENANTED LAND.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1441

LORD DENMAN'S SPEECH.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1441

BALLINTUBBER CATTLE RAID.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1442

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (added in respect of the Incest Bill): Mr. Russell Rea; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Incest Bill): Mr. Walter Rea.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Sir John Benn; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Bright.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1443

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Third Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1443

HOME WORK.—Ordered, That Mr. William Redmond be discharged from the Select Committee on Home Work.

Ordered, That Mr. Hugh Law be added to the Committee.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 1443

TELEGRAPH [MONEY].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums not exceeding in the whole £6,000,000 for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, and to apply the provisions of The Telegraph Act, 1892, to the raising of such sums."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sydney Buxton and Mr. Runciman .. 1443

Telegraph (Money) Bill.—"To provide for raising further money for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 232] 1444

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Chaplin (Wimbledon) 1444
The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 1459
Mr. J. F. Mason (Windsor) 1479
Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N.W.) 1487
Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 1489
Mr. Guest (Cardiff Districts) 1492
Sir Berkeley Sheffield (Lincolnshire, Brigg) 1497
Mr. Rogers (Wiltshire, Devizes) 1501
Mr. Starkey (Nottinghamshire, Newark) 1506
Mr. Boulton (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) 1509
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 1512
Mr. Silcock (Somersetshire, Wells) 1513
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 1516
Mr. Ellis Davies (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) 1519
Mr. Hemmerde (Denbighshire, E.) 1522
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 1525
The Treasurer of the Household (Sir Edward Strachey, Somersetshire, S.) 1537

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. George Roberts*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the County of Monaghan (North Monaghan), in the room of Patrick O'Hare, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien*) 1540

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1907

PRIVATE BILLS.

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill.—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The Order made on the 5th instant discharged, and Bill committed 1541

Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill.—Reported, with Amendments .. 1541

Armagh Urban District Council Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 1541

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill.—Read 3ª, and passed 1541

Grays and Tilbury Gas Bill; Brighouse Corporation Bill; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]—(unopposed Orders); Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]—(unopposed Orders); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Order for the meeting of the Committee on Tuesday next discharged, and Committee to meet on Monday next 1541

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [H.L.].—Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken before this House, together with the documents deposited in the case. Ordered to be communicated, with a request that they may be returned 1541

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bills to be read 3ª on Monday next 1541

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1541

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (SANITARY MEASURES).—Report on sanitary measures in India in 1905–1906. Vol. XXXIX: Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1541

Statute Law Revision Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 1542

Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill.

Lord Belper 1542

Factory and Workshop Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*) .. ..

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The Earl of Lytton 1543
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1549
Earl Beauchamp 1552

On Question, Bill read 3ª, and passed; and sent to the Commons.

PROHIBITION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE BY COMPANIES BILL [H.L.]; DENTAL COMPANIES (RESTRICTIONS OF PRACTICE) BILL [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee), made, and to be printed. (No. 72): Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies Bill [H.L.] reported without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House: Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice) Bill [H.L.) reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House, and to be printed as amended. (No. 73): Minutes of Evidence and an appendix laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out 1554

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION.

Lord Newton 1554
Earl Beauchamp 1556

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

Earl Cawdor 1556

Moved, that the following Lords be named of the Select Committee—

L. Abp. of Canterbury.
D. Norfolk.
D. Bedford.
D. Devonshire.
D. Northumberland.
M. Lansdowne.
E. Jersey.
E. Lauderdale.
E. Onslow.
E. Cawdor.
E. Camperdown.
E. Lytton.
E. Halsbury.
V. Selby.
V. St. Aldwyn.
L. Clinton.
L. Brodrick (*V. Midleton*).
L. Ribblesdale.
L. Clonbrock.
L. Rosebery (*E. Rosebery*).
L. Belper.
L. Kenry (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).
L. Newton.
L. Courtney of Penwith.
L. Collins.
—(*Earl Cawdor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MR. SPEAKER'S ABSENCE.—The House being met, the Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr. SPEAKER from this day's sitting.

Whereupon Mr. Emmott, the Chairman of Ways and Means, proceeded to the Table, and, after Prayers, took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] STANDING ORDER 64 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 64 has been complied with, viz. :—Midland Railway Bill [Lords 1557

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—Midland Railway Bill [Lords]

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 1558

Simon Carves Bye Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered : to be read the third time 1558

Lower Thames Tunnel Railways Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 1558

United Methodist Church Bill [LORDS].—Order for Committal [12th June] read and discharged.

Ordered, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of Nine Members, Five to be nominated by the House, and Four by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented Five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee ; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents be heard against the Bill, and Counsel be heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*The Deputy-Chairman.*) 1558

Clyde Navigation Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1558

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]: Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 1559

St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1559

King Edward's Hospital Fund Bill [LORDS]: Sutton Coldfield Rectory Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table .. 1559

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1559

PETITIONS.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Rotherhithe in favour; to lie upon the Table 1559

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against: From Bucknall; Cleeton Saint Mary; and, London and other places; to lie upon the Table 1559

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.—Petitions from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1559

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Unrest in Ireland.—Questions, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood), Mr. Moore, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.), Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1608

Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1611

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Toomebridge Petty Sessions Clerk.—Question, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.) Answer, Mr. Birrell 1612

Butson Estate, Clonfert.—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.), Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1612

Dublin Police Instructions.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1613

Old Canal Banks, Banagher.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1613

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following fourteen Members from Standing Committee B (added in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Mr. Du Cros, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Bennett, Sir Edward Tennant, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Marnham, Mr. Duncan Schwann, Viscount Turnour, Mr. Lynch, Mr. William Pearce, and Mr. Whitwell Wilson; and had appointed in substitution the following fourteen Members (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Mr. Cave, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Leif Jones, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Charles Corbett, Mr. Clough, Major Dunne, and Sir Howard Vincent.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Sir Thomas

Whittaker, Mr. Bright Mr. Duckworth, and Mr. Barnard; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Acland Allen, and Mr. Toulmin.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. David Alfred Thomas; and had appointed in substitution (in respect to the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. Holt.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1613

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—John Gretton, esquire, for the County of Rutland .. 1614

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the Court in relation to Maintenance and Alimony, and leave to intervene." [Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [Lords] 1614

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 233] 1615

NEW BILLS.

Education Bill.—"To amend the Education (England and Wales) Act, 1902, and to provide for more effectual local public control in regard to Education in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Verney; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. George White, Mr. Morrell, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Whitbread; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 234] .. 1615

Credit Banks Bill.—"To facilitate the formation of Thrift and Credit Banks," presented by Sir John Brunner; supported by Sir William Anson, Mr. John Robertson, and Mr. Helme; to be read a second time upon Monday, 24th June, and to be printed. [Bill 235] 1615

Lunacy (Ireland) Bill.—"To correct a verbal error in Section 6 of the Lunacy (Ireland) Act, 1901, presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 236] .. 1615

Navigation Works (Ireland) Bill.—"To facilitate the execution of Navigation Works in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 237] 1615

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. Secretary Morley.*) 1615

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL).—Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House).—(*Mr. Secretary Morley.*) 1615

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.*) 1616

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several Provinces of the Dominion," put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Runciman.

British North America Bill.—"To make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several Provinces of the Dominion," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 238].

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [12th June], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Mr. George Roberts (*Norwich*) 1618
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 1625
Mr. Abel Smith (*Herts, Hertford*) 1629
Mr. Wedgwood (*Newcastle-under-Lyme*) 1635
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 1640
Mr. Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 1655
Mr. Lambton (*Durham, S.E.*) 1659
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (*Wilts, Chippenham*) 1661
Mr. Hills (*Durham*) 1667
Sir F. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 1671
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 1678
Mr. Rowlands (*Kent, Dartford*) 1686
Mr. Jesse Collings (*Birmingham, Bordesley*) 1690
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 1698

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, " That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 231.)

Bill committed to a Standing Committee.

Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee 1712

KINGSWOOD (WHITFIELD TABERNACLE, SCHOOLROOM, ETC) BILL.—Read a Second time, and committed to a Standing Committee 1712

Longton (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee 1712

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Eleven o'clock.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

( ) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 30*th May*, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery, the wife of St. John Brown Killery, a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, with the said St. John Brown Killery, and to enable her to marry again and for other purposes; presented, on Petition, and a copy of the Proceedings in, and of the Decree of Divorce of, the King's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, delivered (on oath). Bill read 1^a.

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Great Northern and City Railway Bill. Read 2^a, and committed; The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Great Central Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1.) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4.) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order).

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, NO. 14 (1907) (IN CONTINUATION OF "TREATY SERIES, NO. 1, 1898").

Additional agreement between the United Kingdom and France, respecting the Parcel Post Service between British India and France; signed at Paris, 30th March, 1907. (Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 10th May, 1907.)

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3806. Greece (Cyclades); No. 3807. France (Marseilles.)

ARMY.

Statement showing the proposed financial control over the expenditure connected with the Territorial Force.

SIGHT TESTS.

Report on the sight tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2990]).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PORT OF ARUNDEL.

Account and Report for 1906–1907. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PROHIBITION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE BY COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

DENTAL COMPANIES (RESTRICTIONS OF PRACTICE) BILL [H.L.].

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out, except to members of the Committee, and to such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 58).

IRISH TOBACCO BILL.

Order of the Day for the House being put into Committee read.

Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE: My Lords, in moving that the House do now resolve itself into Committee for the consideration of this Bill I shall intervene for but a very few moments between the House and the noble Marquess whom we all wish so much to hear. On the occasion when I moved the Second Reading of this Bill His Majesty's Government extended their benevolent neutrality towards it. Since then, however, circumstances have somewhat changed. I am led to think that one reason why this benevolent neutrality was extended was that His Majesty's Government hoped that a pipe of peace composed purely of Irish tobacco might be smoked at the coming of age of the latest political offspring of the Chief Secretary for Ireland. But I am afraid that that bantling will be short lived, and I believe the author of its being is now considering whether if he commits the crime of taking its life the country may not announce it a case of justifiable infanticide. The Bill now before your Lordships, however, is an uncontroversial measure. Its only object is to enable tobacco to be grown in Ireland where the climate is suitable, and I have every reason to believe it will pass into law.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

THE GOVERNMENT AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

***The Marquess of LANSDOWNE** rose to call attention to the Memorandum of evidence as to allotments and small holdings lately presented to both Houses of Parliament [Cd. 3468]. The noble Marquess said: My Lords, I hope your Lordsips will not think that I am unduly pertinacious in recurring to this subject. It is one of great importance and one in which this House takes great interest; and I do not think we could possibly allow it to remain where it has been left by the Parliamentary Paper to which I desire this evening to call attention. Your Lordships will recollect that before the Easter vacation attention was called in this House to a speech delivered by the Prime Minister at the Holborn Restaurant on the subject of agricultural depopulation. I am not going to review that speech a second time, but I must say once more that to most of those who read it it certainly seemed to amount to an assertion that agricultural depopulation was in great measure due to the attitude of the landowning class in this country; that if there was any difficulty in bringing about a restoration of the people to the soil, that difficulty was at any rate largely created by the attitude of the landowning class, and that the landowning class was, or many of them were, actuated by what I can only describe as purely selfish motives. I know quite well that the noble Marquess who leads this House and the noble Earl who sits beside him disclaimed any such intention on the part of the Prime Minister, and I accept that disclaimer unhesitatingly; but the impression produced by that speech has been strengthened by other speeches made by colleagues and supporters of noble Lords on the Front Bench opposite who have dealt with the same question. Your Lordships will recollect that upon the occasion to which I have referred we challenged the statement of the Prime Minister and we asked for the production of that great mass of evidence upon which his statement was alleged to have been founded; and we asked in particular for some proof, founded on official documents, of the assertion that in numerous cases the demand for small holdings had been met by what the Prime Minister described as a blank denial.

We have been kept waiting some time for the production of this evidence. I questioned my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture on the subject, I think, on 2nd May, and gathered from him that there had been delay because the amount of information was so enormous that there had been difficulty in condensing it. We felt pity for the noble Earl We pictured him to ourselves wrestling with this great mass of documents and endeavouring to produce from them an extract corresponding to those which profess to reproduce the whole of the nutritive qualities of an ox compressed within the compass of a single table-spoon. We have now got the document. Here it is, and I cannot help feeling that it must be somewhat disappointing both in quality and in quantity to those who expected to find in it the material for an indictment of the landowning class. It is certainly not disappointing to us, because most of us expected that we should find that the outcome of the noble Earl's exertions would be something of the kind we hold in our hands. I hope he will not think me disrespectful if I say that in the whole course of my Parliamentary experience I have never come across a clumsier or more unsuccessful attempt to bolster up a weak case.

The condemnation covers a series of documents. There are five groups of documents, and, if your Lordships will bear with me for a few moments, I should like to call your attention as briefly as I can to each of them. The first is the Report of and the evidence taken before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Small Holdings which was appointed in 1888. The first observation that occurs to me in regard to that Report is that it is a little out of date. There is a great deal of official testimony of a much later date and corresponding much more closely with the facts as we know them to-day; and the fact that this Report is out of date is important, because I find in it a statement that the practice of consolidating holdings which did prevail during the earlier part of the last century had practically ceased; so that I hope I am justified in saying that we have to deal to-day with an order of things differing very materially from that with which the Committee had to deal.

Now, my Lords, let us see what the condensers are able to make of the Report of that Committee. They find in it only a single line which appears to them worth quoting in this Memorandum. It is this—

> "The demand for small holdings appears to be general in all parts of England and Wales."

That is not a very broad basis for an indictment of the land-owning class of this country. But the Memorandum then proceeds to deal with the evidence. There are fourteen quotations from the evidence. I admit that one or two of the witnesses do mention the reluctance of certain landlords to let or sell land for the purpose of small holdings, but there is nothing to show whether the reasons given for that objection were justifiable or unjustifiable reasons; and your Lordships will perhaps notice that all the witnesses, or the larger number of them, referred to the objections entertained by the farmers and apparently gave those objections a much greater amount of prominence than the objections of the landowners. But there is nothing whatever that I can find in the evidence laid before the Committee to suggest anything approaching to an attitude of general obstruction on the part of the landowners of this country. There are various quotations from the evidence. Some of them do not seem to me very convincing. There is, for example, a lengthy quotation from a gentleman who is described as the secretary of the National Fruit Growers' League. Now what had he to say? He says—

> "There are hundreds of young men in London, independent of the agricultural districts, and in most of our large towns thousands of young men with capital, who, if they could get the small holdings, would readily take them up."

I am not quite convinced that among those hundreds or those thousands of young men, taken may be from the town and not from the country, you would find people who were really likely to be transmuted at once into small farmers able to win their way in the world in that profession of life. I see a quotation from the evidence of Mr. Fyffe, Estates Bursar of University College, Oxford. Mr. Fyffe, again, lays much more stress upon the objections of farmers than he does upon the objections of the landlords.

Then I do not like to pass by, lest it should appear disrespectful, a quotation from the evidence tendered by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack—evidence which I must say appeals very much to me. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, then Mr. R. T. Reid, M.P., told the Committee that there were—

> "Some parts of the country in which, whether from territorial reasons or from other reasons, I know not what, landlords will not part with their land."

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

I agree that there may be territorial and other reasons, and I believe that in many cases they will prove to be excellent reasons. But I should like to refer to a statement not quoted in this excerpt, but immediately preceding the sentence quoted. Mr. Reid then said—

> "I do not believe that if Parliament proclaimed a policy of small holdings the landlords would set their faces against it."

That is a feeling which I share entirely with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. All I have to say about the Report of 1890 is this. The Committee considered whether there was before them a case for demanding compulsory powers, and they placed upon record their opinion that a provision of the kind was unnecessary, and that if it were to be resorted to it was not likely to be largely availed of.

Then I pass to the second document dealing with the returns of proceedings under the Small Holdings Act, 1892. It appears from the Memorandum that a difficulty was experienced in coming to terms in nine counties, and your Lordships will find them enumerated on page 7 of the Memorandum. I should like to say a word or two about the counties selected. Take first the county of Cornwall. The framer of the Memorandum reports that—

> "The Committee endeavoured to obtain land for the purposes of the Act in different parts of the county, but found that in some cases the land applied for already formed part of small tenements, and that in others the owners were unwilling to part with the land."

I turn to the much later report, the Departmental Report of the Board of Agriculture for 1906, and I look at the passage on page 72 dealing with the county of Cornwall. This is what the reporters of the Agricultural Department had to say last year as to the county of of Cornwall—

> "There is no evidence of any demand for allotments that is not fully supplied . . . . Land for small holdings is obtainable without much difficulty, but the expense of erecting the necessary buildings is practically prohibitive."

That is the modern portrait of the condition of things in the county of Cornwall. Now I pass to the county of Dorset, which comes next. In the county of Dorset the Memorandum states that—

> "The sub-committee believe that considerable difficulty would be experienced in obtaining available land."

Turning to the Report of last year, I find in it this—

> "In some districts there is little demand for small holdings."

and—

> "A large area in the county is not adapted for this kind of husbandry,"

and—

> "The applicants are not of the agricultural labourer class, but mostly small tradesmen and townsfolk, whose experience is very limited and whose requirements as to building accommodation make it extremely doubtful that they could make sufficient out of the produce of a small holding at prevailing prices to pay an adequate rent to cover the heavy outlay that would be necessary."

The Report summarises the case for the county of Dorset in these words—

> "It is not considered that the lack either of allotments or small holdings has contributed to the decline in population."

I come next to the county of Lincoln, about which there is something to be said, but I will reserve that because the case of that county arises upon another document.

I will say one word with regard to a county with which I have some connection, the county of Wilts. It is dismissed in these words—

> "Suitable land was pointed out, but the committee were unable to come to terms with the owner."

Your Lordships will observe that that is one single case upon which the county of Wiltshire is, so to speak, found guilty. Let us see what the Report of last year has to say about the county of Wiltshire. Mr. Squarey, a gentleman of great knowledge, of great reputation, not only in Wiltshire but in the whole of the West of England, dwells upon the fact that—

> "The questions of housing, homestead, water supply and fencing are the main obstacles."

Not the reluctance of landlords. He goes on—

> "We have several instances of property split up into small holdings, which for the most part are not satisfactory from a financial and industrial point of view. Only in one case am I fairly assured of their being financially a success."

As one who knows something about the county of Wiltshire, I may be permitted to say that I am aware that the County Council of Wiltshire exerted themselves to the utmost to promote the cause of small holdings, and found a difficulty, not owing to the obstructive attitude of landlords, but because there really at that time, throughout the greater part of the county, did not seem to be that intense desire for such holdings which perhaps existed in one or two districts with which the noble Earl opposite and I are familiar. I may say generally of that Return that it certainly does not provide any justification whatever for a general complaint that the landlords have stood in the way of the success of the policy of small holdings.

But I pass from that to the next document, which has reference to the proceedings under the Allotments Acts and the Allotments Clauses of the Local Government Act, 1894. This summary is really a very remarkable one. There is an enumeration of nine rural districts in which land was not obtained by agreement. Would your Lordships believe it? The Return from which those nine rural districts are selected deals with no fewer than 518 rural districts; and there are only nine in which this difficulty was experienced. I must not do the compiler of the return an injustice. He throws in besides a single parish extracted from another part of the Return—the parish of Erpingham, in Norfolk, of which it is said that—

> "The only suitable piece of land belonged to an owner who would neither sell nor let."

What joy there must have been when the gentleman entrusted with these researches discovered this parish of Erpingham and the one obstructive owner. This is what is said of that in the Report—

> "A local inquiry was held in this parish in July, 1891. The committee found that the only suitable piece of land was a place of about six acres, except some pieces which were already in the hands of small owners."

So that there was already to a certain extent a compliance with the demand. Erpingham, I find, is one of a group of eleven Norfolk parishes, in all of which the local authority found it possible to make satisfactory arrangements for obtaining small holdings. Is it really fair to parade this one fly in the pot of ointment, so to speak, and to cite the case to us as a proof that in that part of England a difficulty has been encountered from the attitude of landowners?

The next Return is the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by my noble friend Lord Onslow in 1906. Lord Onslow's Report extends over forty pages and the compilers of the Memorandum have found in it one passage of four lines which they cite in order to establish the case made by the Prime Minister in his speech at the Holborn Restaurant. Now I am not at all sure that the compilers have dealt quite fairly with my noble friend Lord Onslow, for if your Lordships have the Report in your hands you will find that this brief passage does not convey an adequate impression of the whole effect of the paragraph from which it is taken. This is what my noble friend says—

> "Until the middle of last century the policy of landowners on the advice of their agents was, as is well known, to consolidate holdings."

and—

> "It may be safely said that expert advice at the present day would be to the effect that on a large estate there should be holdings of all sizes, that some land may be most advantageously farmed over large areas, some in medium-sized holdings, and others in small holdings."

and—

> "In a few cases agents might not advise this course on the ground that the collection of rent and the repair of buildings is more troublesome in the case of small holders."

Then comes the passage quoted in the Memorandum, but the Report goes on—and this passage is not cited—

> "Of the agents who appeared before the Committee none expressed themselves as hostile to the creation of small holdings, while most of them lamented the economic difficulties in the way of providing and equipping them."

That, I venture to think, puts a different face on the Report of my noble friend from what it is made to bear in this compilation. The Report goes on to refer in terms of commendation to the evidence given by a Member of this House, Lord Harrowby, who pointed out that outside a limited area, where residential amenities are the principal consideration, there is a vast amount of land, the owners of which would not improbably be willing to sell or to adapt the land to small holdings. Well, so much for the Report of the noble Earl's Departmental Committee. But the compilers of the Memorandum have sought to find in the evidence what they could not find in the text of the Report, and they give a number of quotations, and I cannot say I think these quotations are very conclusive. There is a long quotation from the admirable and interesting evidence given by Miss Jebb, but I find no reference to a passage which I think my noble friend referred to the other day, in which Miss Jebb says—

> "In nearly every district where I have been, I have seen land which has come into the market recently, or is going to come in, or has come in some years ago, which has been in a great many cases just bought by another man for a very small sum, and which it would have been a mere matter of organisation to have acquired for the smaller man."

There is no evidence here of anything like an attempt to withhold land from the market by those who had it at their disposal. Then, again, there is a quotation from the evidence of Mr. Winfrey, whose chief difficulties seem to have been encountered when he got to close quarters with the present colleagues of the noble Earl, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, who, I imagine, can hardly be regarded as game preservers and addicted to those obstructive tactics in which large landlords are supposed to indulge.

There is one more important quotation, namely, from the evidence of Mr. H. M. Jonas, who is, I understand, the gentleman to whom has now been entrusted the management of Crown estates formerly administered under the Office of Woods and Forests by two extremely well-known firms of high reputation, Messrs. Clutton and Messrs. E. J. Smith. These firms, which had for years enjoyed the confidence of the Office of Woods and Forests, and who are well known throughout the United Kingdom, have, I understand, received their *congé* and Mr. Jonas reigns in their place. It has been explained that the two dismissed firms have not shown themselves sufficiently sympathetic to the cause of small holdings. I do not know the reasons for which that is alleged; but I do know that in the county to which I referred just now and with which I am personally connected, a very considerable number of small holdings were established on the Crown estates, under the auspices of one of these two firms, though they were not able to see their way to recommend the adoption of the same policy indiscriminately and without regard to the local conditions.

Now, what has Mr. Jonas to tell us? One farm to which he refers belongs to one of the Cambridge colleges. There again one would hardly expect to find a hide-bound game preserver at work. Mr. Jonas says—

> "There was an application made for allotments to the county council, an inquiry was held, and the matter fell through for some reason; the tenant who farmed the proposed land opposed it, and notice to quit has been given to the tenant and he is leaving."

The tenant has to go. Now this may be sympathetic treatment for those who desire small holdings, but it certainly looks as if the tenant who wishes to have his say when the disintegration of his farm is proposed must not expect the same measure of sympathetic treatment. I hope this poor man was allowed to make good his claim to the full for those compensations for disturbance which we know are dear to the hearts of noble Lords opposite. I leave the Report of my noble friend's Committee. I have read it, as I daresay your Lordships have, with attention, and I do not find evidence to support the accusation made against landowners; but I do find very distinct evidence of the movement of the population townwards, a movement which is taking place, as your Lordships will remember, not only in this country, but in all parts of Europe. I find also very distinct statements as to the difficulty of obtaining what I may call the proper raw material for making small landholders, for it is not every man who can conduct a small holding successfully; and above all I find throughout the evidence that stress is laid on the overwhelming difficulty of finding the proper equipment for small holdings when you have created them, and, believe me, it is this difficulty which explains the reluctance of landlords, where there has been reluctance, and of local authorities, where there has been reluctance, to establish small holdings on a large scale.

I have only one other document to which it is necessary for me to refer, but it is of very great importance, and that is the Report issued by the Department of Agriculture last year upon the decline in the agricultural population of Great Britain. It is a document I very much commend to the attention of any of your Lordships who have not had an opportunity of considering it. It covers the whole of the United Kingdom and it illustrates, in great variety of experience and opinion, what has been going on in different parts of the country. The book contains, in the first place, a Report by Mr. Rew, one of the assistant secretaries of the Board of Agriculture, and I may say that it is one of the most interesting documents it has even been my good fortune to peruse. The compilers of the Memorandum have selected a very few lines from Mr. Rew's Report, and I presume it was the strongest passage for their purpose they were able to find—

> "It is possible, of course, that an apparent absence of demand may be due, to some extent at least, to the recognition of the futility of asking for what is practically unobtainable. The majority of the correspondents, however, report that there is a demand for small holdings, which is not satisfied for reasons which many of them specify."

Here again I do not think the compilers of the Memorandum have dealt justly with Mr. Rew's admirable Report, and I should like to read a few lines which have close connection with the passage I have just read. On the first page Mr. Rew says—

> "There is obviously a risk that observations made under exceptional conditions or over limited areas may be put forward and accepted as characteristic of the whole country."

He refers then to the value of the evidence obtained from the agricultural correspondents, whose opinions he cites, and then towards the end of his Report this is what he writes—

> "From about a score of counties it is reported that small holdings are little in request, or, at any rate, that no specific instance of a desire to obtain a small holding has come under the notice of the correspondent."

Then comes the passage quoted in the Memorandum. Mr. Rew goes on—and these words are also omitted from the Memorandum—

> "But at the same time there is certainly some evidence of a disinclination among those who have been brought up on the land to undertake the risks of farming."

This is quite an important factor, if I may be allowed to say so, in the calculation. Further on, upon page 19, Mr. Rew refers to the difficulties in providing small holdings and says—

> "That which may be said to overshadow all the rest is the cost of equipment. The difficulty, as one Report says, 'is not in obtaining land, but in the cost of putting up the requisite buildings,' or, in another phrase, 'the essential difficulty is the cost of erecting buildings meeting the modern requirements of sanitary authorities and the prospect of insufficient return in the shape of rent.'"

This is an observation to which I think too much attention cannot be given, but it is not mentioned by the compilers of the Memorandum. Not having found much to suit their book in Mr. Rew's Report, the compilers of the Memorandum then rummaged the evidence, and they have collected a few plums which they display on page 13. These extracts are very brief, and they come to nothing more than this—that in the fifteen or twenty counties mentioned there has been some difficulty in obtaining small holdings. I do not doubt there has. But what we want to know is how that difficulty has been occasioned—whether it has been due to the attitude of those who own the land, rather than to other and subsidiary causes. In order to determine whether that count in the indictment is proved I must ask your Lordships to have patience with me while I verify a few of the quotations in the Memorandum by calling attention to the context, without which these quotations seem to me to convey very imperfectly the meaning of the witnesses. And who are these witnesses? As I understand, they are gentlemen who have been singled out, owing to their special capabilities and experience, to act as correspondents of the Agricultural Department in different parts of the country. I am particular upon this point, because not long ago it was suggested by no less an authority than the Prime Minister that those gentlemen were not altogether impartial. I do not know upon what ground that suspicion was founded. In Mr. Rew's Report, which, I presume, was issued with the authority of the President of the Board of Agriculture, they are thus referred to—

> "In their staff of agricultural correspondents, the Board possess facilities for obtaining observations by well-qualified observers distributed in every county of Great Britain."

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

And further on they are again described as—

> "A body of competent observers."

I do not know why it should be suggested that the evidence of those gentlemen is in any way open to suspicion any more than why it should be suggested hereafter that the Agricultural Commissioners to whom it is intended to entrust the duty of keeping the county councils in order are persons whose impartiality is to be called in question because they owe their appointments to the Government of the day. At any rate, I presume the evidence of these gentlemen is worth quoting, for otherwise the Board of Agriculture would not have quoted it in the Memorandum they have laid before us.

In regard to Lincolnshire, we are told in the Memorandum—

> "At present, owing to the great demand, small holdings command a higher rent than they are really worth. There is a difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings, for which there is a keen demand."

But what does the correspondent say?—

> "There is not the slightest difficulty in obtaining allotments. In fact there are insufficient applications in many cases. Few labourers have any capital to take up small holdings."

Further on it is said—

> "Mr. Frankish thinks that there is not now any difficulty in obtaining small holdings, but that there are few places in Lincolnshire, except Holland, where they can pay, and even there they are said to be overdone and profits very much reduced."

So much for the county of Lincolnshire. I will now take Yorkshire. Yorkshire is dismissed in the Memorandum with these words—

> "A difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable land for allotments and small holdings."

But what does the correspondent say? Mr. Pearson writes—

> "The land round here was originally owned by small men, but, with few exceptions, now forms one estate. Some villages are still occupied by small freeholders, and those may be frequently detected by the dilapidated state of the buildings, etc."

That is not very encouraging for Yorkshire. With regard to Sussex, we are told in the Memorandum—

"There is a very great difficulty in obtaining small holdings, for which there is a keen demand."

On the other hand one of the correspondents writes—

"There appears to be no difficulty as regards allotments, and these are not much wanted, as most of the cottages have good gardens attached."

With reference to small holdings Mr. Haviland writes—

"The demand is created quite as much by retired tradesmen and people who vainly hope to make a living amidst pleasant surroundings as by agricultural labourers who have saved a few pounds and seek to improve their position."

Another correspondent says he finds no general desire for small holdings and remarks that the small holder is the first to go to the wall when depression sets in. He adds—

"There are numbers of holdings from 6 to 20 acres to let, and there is a difficulty in finding tenants able and willing to use the land."

A third correspondent says that—

"Small holdings are not in demand except near towns, and, as far as I can ascertain, landowners are always ready to meet any demand, provided they can get sufficient rent to cover the extra outlay required."

That surely is not very unreasonable on the part of the landlords. Your Lordships will observe that as regards this county four correspondents give information, and that only one is quoted in the Memorandum, namely, the gentleman whose evidence appears to suit the Government's case. With regard to Shropshire, we are told—

"Holdings of three or four acres of grass land are not sufficiently plentiful; and had such been offered to thrifty labourers the prospect would have counterbalanced the desire for change."

The correspondent of the Board of Agriculture writes—

"Land could no doubt be had at a reasonable price, but no one seems disposed to bear the cost of the houses and buildings, knowing that no ordinary tenant could pay anything like fair interest on the outlay."

I ask your Lordships' particular attention to the reference to Worcester in the Memorandum. It says—

"No doubt more small holdings would be taken up if they were available. The difficulties in the way of small holdings are——"

—then there is a series of dots to indicate an omission—

"the unwillingness of the large farmers to part with any of their land."

On page 68 of the Report of 1906 this is what I find about the county of Worcester. Mr. Wheeler, the correspondent, writes—

"As a rule the small holder does better as a tenant than as a freeholder; the latter generally goes under, at all events, in the second generation."

And he remarks that—

"The difficulties in the way of the creation of small holdings are:—(1) The expense of providing the necessary buildings."

That is left out altogether, and only number (2)—the unwillingness of the large farmers to part with any of their land—is given. I will now take Hereford. In regard to Hereford, the quotation in the Memorandum is important, because it says that in part of it—

"The owners, being large game preservers, preferred to have large farms rather than small holdings."

That is the only passage I can find which suggests that anything like selfish considerations prevail with the landlords. But what does the correspondent say? He says—

"The number of allotments appears to be equal to the requirements."

As regards small holdings, Mr. Riley writes—

"Hereabouts, and, indeed, all over the county, there are so many small holdings that there has been no agitation for them."

Then comes the little passage which I have just quoted from the Memorandum, and immediately following it are these words—

"It would be better to have more 12 to 30 acre farms, but it simply does not pay to make them. The county, being adapted to orcharding, is very favourable for small holdings."

The Memorandum tells us as to Devonshire—

"In some cases there is a difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings, and to some extent this is thought to have contributed to the rural exodus."

To some extent! Again, I turn to the Report on the decline in the agricultural population. In the correspondent's communication the passage which

I have just read is immediately followed by these words—

> "At the same time, it is remarked that few labourers could enter on a holding without assistance. The chief obstacle is not the want of land, but the cost of providing the requisite buildings."

I will refer to two only of the Scottish counties. In the Memorandum we read that in Aberdeenshire there is a general want of small holdings. One correspondent writes—

> "There is no difficulty in obtaining land in this district. The proprietors would be glad to let or sell land if suitable applicants could be found and a fair and reasonable price offered. The Aberdeen County Council advertised some years ago for applicants to take up small holdings or allotments, and very few applied. These were on investigation found undesirable."

Another correspondent writes—

> "Small holdings or allotments can only form a partial remedy for rural depopulation, and a poor one at the best. While they might prove successful in the immediate neighbourhood of towns or growing villages, where tradesmen and others might, by the cultivation of such allotments, add to their incomes, such holdings would never have the effect of bringing the people back to the land. In upland districts, in our glens and straths, small holdings will not induce young men to return to the country. . . . If it were not for the feeling of independence that the possession of a farm or croft creates, men would be far better off financially if employed as servants."

Perthshire is also black-listed, and one correspondent is quoted in the Memorandum as saying that—

> "there is difficulty in getting small holdings in this part of the country."

In the Report there are three correspondents quoted, but only the opinion I have read is given in the Memorandum. The second correspondent states that in his district there is no great desire for small holdings, and that in two townships the number has declined from twenty to thirteen, and from eight or nine to two; while the third correspondent observes that there is not much demand for small holdings, unless for fruit growing.

I apologise for having quoted these Reports at such length, but it really was impossible to establish the case I desired to establish without referring somewhat fully to them. I think it is only fair to say that on a general view of all these documents, and of the evidence by which these documents are supported, your Lordships will come to the conclusion that, if there has been any reluctance on the part of the landlords to create more of these small holdings, it has been because the landlords, as practical men, gave weight to the various considerations which are urged with so much force by the correspondents of the Department over which my noble friend presides. It is for that reason that difficulty has been experienced and not because there has been any desire on the part of the landlords to pursue what I may call a policy of obstruction towards the creation of these holdings.

The landowners no doubt think of the welfare of their own estates and they have a right to do so, but they know perfectly well that if these experiments are tried in a haphazard and incautious manner a great deal more is involved than the welfare of their own estates. They have to think, in the first place, of what is due to the sitting tenants, whose interests, after all, they have to take into consideration, and on behalf of whom I shall certainly not appeal in vain to the occupants of the opposite bench. And they have also to bear in mind that, should these experiments be tried recklessly and lead to disaster, that disaster may involve not only a number of well-meaning people who may be inveigled into embarking upon a somewhat precarious career, but also the ratepayers, or whoever the people are, who will have to find that large sum of money which undoubtedly will be necessary if you are to equip these holdings in a proper manner.

To my mind the worst thing that could happen is that this question should be dealt with in such a manner as either to distort the judgment of the public or to create private irritation by importing into it what I may call considerations of class prejudice. I hope your Lordships may have an opportunity of reading a most interesting book which has lately been written by a very distinguished French statesman, I mean M. Méline, on the subject of the return to the land. A very remarkable picture is given there of the agricultural situation in France which we have always been brought up to regard as the country which is the home of the peasant proprietor. Another writer, Mr. Jesse Collings, whose book is I think a classic on this subject, says that since the time of the Revolution the career of the French tillers of the soil has been one of increasing comfort and prosperity. In spite of this, what does M. Méline tell us? That the French tiller of the soil is leaving the soil. I will quote his own words—

> "Our agricultural population has been decreasing steadily in accordance with the Fates. If the country has been abandoned, this has not been without reasons, and the reasons still exist. The agricultural labourer has deserted the soil because it imposed upon him too much work and too many privations."

I commend to your Lordships M. Méline's conclusion. He says—

> "The return to the land will not be brought about by violent and empirical measures, but scientifically and by men of good will working in concord and unity."

My Lords, I believe that in that work the landowners of this country are willing to bear their part, and I believe it may be a very useful part, if only noble Lords opposite and their friends will be good enough to regard them as allies rather than as common enemies, and will refrain from encouraging their more hotheaded supporters to undertake against them the kind of crusade with which they have been so constantly threatened of late.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, I do not think that there is anyone on this side of the House who will find fault with, or complain of, a single word in the speech to which we have just listened. The noble Marquess has stated his case with perfect fairness and great clearness, and, if I might be permitted to say so, he has from his point of view made out a very good case indeed. If no answer were given it might be supposed that it was almost unanswerable; but I hope I may be able to convince some noble Lords opposite that our case is perhaps the better of the two.

The noble Marquess began by calling me to account for not having dealt quite fairly with the case. I think the answer to that is that the Memorandum which was asked for was only intended to give one side of the case. I am not in the least ashamed of it. That was the kind of evidence which I understood the noble Marquess asked for. What I was asked to do was to substantiate a statement which had been made, and I have done it to the best of my ability. I did not pretend to present both sides of the question; I picked out one side, and the noble Marquess now, quite legitimately, has picked out the other side of the case; and I am bound to say he has done it uncommonly well. I must say I regret that the Prime Minister's name has been introduced.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Why?

EARL CARRINGTON: If a speech or the conduct of any Minister is impugned, surely it ought to be impugned in the House of which he is a Member, and where he is able to answer for himself. The noble Marquess asserted that the contention of the Prime Minister was that the agricultural depression was largely due to the land-owning class, but I am glad to say the noble Marquess accepted the disclaimer that was made. Then he mentioned several other speeches made by independent Members of the Liberal Party and others. I cannot be expected to answer for them, and I am afraid I must leave them to answer for themselves. We were told a month ago that the Prime Minister's charge was not levelled at individual landlords, nor at farmers, nor at the local authorities, but at landowners as a class. I beg most distinctly to state that the Prime Minister never made such a charge at all; my right hon. friend had no intention whatever of accusing landlords as a class of any supposititious organised opposition to small holdings, and his words cannot, I maintain, be twisted into such an imputation. The actual words used were—

> "The demand for land for the purpose of use and labour is met by a blank denial."

A NOBLE LORD: By whom?

EARL CARRINGTON: My right hon. friend did not in any way apportion the blame between these three classes, but evidence has been laid before Parliament showing where impediments to the acquisition of land have been created by them. I maintain that the accuracy of the statement has been vindicated by the evidence laid before Parliament. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman is the last man in the world to bear any malice against any individual or class, though no public man has suffered more from misrepresentation, perhaps I might say from abuse. I hope I may now be permitted to pass entirely from the personal part of the question.

It is a great satisfaction to me to hear that the landlords are not unwilling to provide land for small holdings. That is uncommonly good news. The circumstance will make the task to which we have put our hands very much easier. We have been told that in many cases there is no demand for small holdings. Everything that I can see points entirely to the contrary. I will not weary the House with the figures I gave a month ago, but I ask your Lordships to look at the experience of the Crown lands which I laid before the House last month. Also I would urge the House to consider the difficulty which men of the labouring class experience in making their voices heard when they are anxious to get small holdings. They are confronted with the technicalities of statutory procedure, and naturally it is difficult for them to express their opinions, and they are to a certain extent inarticulate. The landlords, I agree, have no wish to obstruct, but they have a great difficulty as regards the position of their agents and their farmers. The phrase "blank denial" did not apply to the landlords alone; it extended also to the farmers and the agents of the different properties.

Perhaps I may be permitted to refer to a case which came within my own personal knowledge. I think it is one of hundreds of cases. Some thirty years ago I used to go every year to shoot with a friend who had a very pretty wife, a very good woman who played the Lady Bountiful on the estate. Every day she used to drive a capital pair of ponies down to the village and inquire after the parson's wife, who had had another baby, or give a pudding to a poor old woman with a bad leg. At that time agricultural depression was beginning, and farmers were threatening to leave their farms, and she said to one of the women in the village, "Can't I do anything to supplement these men's wages?" The woman replied, "Oh yes, my lady, if his lordship would give us a bit of land it would help us." At dinner that day she said to me, "You know something about small holdings. How am I to set about it?" I told her that the first thing to do was to square the agent. Two or three days before I left I asked the lady how she was geting on in the matter, and she said the agent had circumvented her. He had told her he would do anything in the world she wished, and then had gone to Bob, had pointed out how small holdings would interfere with partridge driving, and had made a suggestion which would have resulted in their being unable to get any land for two years when, he said, they would be all right. She asked Bob it he would get rid of the agent, but she told me that Bob was funny in some things and said "No." So far as I know, from that day to this there has been on that estate very few allotments and hardly any small holdings at all. That is a perfectly true story, and I think it well describes the difficulties that landlords and their wives have to meet in their attempt to promote small holdings. It is not, therefore, quite fair to put all the blame on the landlords themselves.

Earl Carrington.

As to the Select Committee of 1888, since the noble Marquess thinks its investigations out of date, I will save your Lordships' time by leaving it out of account, and will come straight to the evidence given before Lord Onslow's Committee of 1906. I should like to call attention to the evidence of Miss Jebb. In answer to the Question No. 7894, Miss Jebb said—

> "There are plenty of men wanting land and unable to get it."

Another witness, Mr. James Long, in answer to Question No. 1830, said—

> "We had 2,000 applications for small holdings."

Then my friend Mr. Winfrey said—

> "I think a number of landowners and agents are against small holdings,"

and Lord Harrowby, whose name is really a household word as regards allotments and who has 2,000 acres under small holdings and allotments, said—

> "I had twenty-eight applications for one small holding, and could easily let an additional 500 acres."

I thing it is clear that there is a general demand for allotments in many parts of the country.

I come now to my friend Mr. Rew's Report of 1906; and I may incidentally remark that Mr. Rew has forgotten more about agricultural matters than most people have ever known. He is not an idealist, he is not a socialist or a novelist, but a hard-headed practical man, and his opinion is a very valuable one. We are told in that Report that the supply exceeds the demand. I am bound to say, wishing to play the game perfectly fairly, that in that Report, from Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Buckinghamshire, that opinion is very plainly stated. The noble Marquess rather rallied me in regard to the statements of my own correspondents. I say at once that the correspondents of the Board over which I have the honour to preside are men of the highest integrity and of the highest knowledge, and in agricultural matters their opinion is worthy of great respect and attention; but their opinion on every single subject connected with agriculture is not necessarily valuable. One would not take a French cook to fulfil the duties of a whipper in. The Duke of Connaught yesterday inspected the Chelsea veterans, a fine body of men who fought for their country, but they are not the sort of men you would bring into your household to help cook the dinner if His Royal Highness honoured you by dining with you. Therefore I maintain that, while many of these correspondents have no doubt valuable opinions in various branches of agriculture, yet being large farmers and agents of large estates they entertain a well-known objection to small holdings. Large farmers, it is well known, have an objection to small holdings. So, however valuable the opinion of the correspondents may be on agricultural subjects generally, other people's opinions may be of greater value on this particular subject.

One of the agricultural correspondents for Lincoln is Mr. Frankish, a well-known agriculturist, who was a large farmer, and, I believe, a very successful one. He was Secretary to the Chamber of Agriculture of the county, and is a member of the Tariff Reform Commission. Mr. Frankish says—

> "There is not now any difficulty in obtaining small holdings, but there are few places in Lincolnshire, except Holland, where they pay, and even there they are said to be overdone."

I suppose that is a slap at me. But Mr. Bellwood, of Kirton Lindsey, states that there is a keen demand for small holdings, and adds—

> "I had fifty applications a fortnight ago for a farm of thirty-two acres, from a single advertisement."

The Lincolnshire Small Holdings Association received applications up to the end of April for 2,540 acres in one small area where the Crown Lands happen to have property, and every application has been carefully examined, and each applicant can be conscientiously recommended.

As to the county of Norfolk, the Board's correspondent, a large and respected flockmaster, says that land is readily obtainable. Five miles on one side of that gentleman's house and ten miles on the other side are two farms, which were bought by the Norfolk Small Holdings Syndicate. There was some difficulty in buying them. It had to be done quietly, because if the object of the purchase had been known they would have been run up to a prohibitive price. These two farms were readily let for the purposes of small holdings, and the Norfolk Small Holdings Association has already received applications for 200 more acres in the district, which they are unable to satisfy.

There is another case about six or seven miles from Newmarket. A well-known and much respected gentleman gave up his farm, and though it had been declared that by far the largest proportion of the land in that district was unsuitable for small holdings, the farm was acquired by Mr. C. D. Rose, M.P., and by him divided into allotments, which have been readily let. I would add that 600 more acres could be let in that district if the land could be obtained. It is not tenants who are wanted, it is the land. If suitable land could be procured on fair terms, then people would come forward and offer to cultivate it, of course, not all over England, but wherever there was a chance of making a living out of it.

LORD SALTOUN: Has the Crown built houses on their land?

EARL CARRINGTON: That is a very large subject.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND: What is the average rent charged by the Crown?

EARL CARRINGTON: I could go into figures, but it would take too much time, and I could tell the House what I have done in my own twopenny-halfpenny way on my estate; but I hope I may be allowed to go on with my speech in my own way. There is another correspondent, our old friend John Treadwell, who always attends agricultural meetings in a white hat, and is, no doubt, well-known to your Lordships. He is a very large farmer near Aylesbury, in the county of Bucks, and a member of the Bucks County Council, and he says—

> "There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments; there is more difficulty in finding tanants for present allotments."

Yet not six miles from his house there was a piece of land, south of Aylesbury, where five or six cottages were built some years ago, and when the principal landowner in the neighbourhood was asked for land by the occupiers of the cottages, he said—

> "No, I do not want your cottages, I did not build them, and I do not want cottages in the neighbourhood."

Fortunately there was another man in the neighbourhood who had a little land, and through his instrumentality gardens and pieces of land were added to the cottages to the great advantage of the people who lived in them. Mr. Treadwell seems never to have heard of this. On another occasion there was a great demand for land in villages close by Aylesbury, and that has been met, but I have no doubt that if the matter were gone into it would be found that there is still a demand. Then Mr. Treadwell seems to have forgotten that there was a farm of 600 acres belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, just below Aylesbury. This land was let to a man in a neighbourhood on a lease, and he would not part with an acre of it. But the people wanted land, and they rented some old grass land in a very inconvenient position some three or four miles down the road at over £3 an acre, and they continue to cultivate the land, and pay that substantial rent. That was a case where a demand for small holdings was met by a landlord with a blank denial.

The report of Mr. Rew shows that the correspondents state that there is a demand for small holdings which has not been satisfied in a great many counties in England and Scotland, and even in South Uist. Where that is or what it is I do not know. The reason why there has been a change of agents in the management of the Crown lands is that there were only forty-four small holdings on an acreage of 62,000. If a Government honestly think they can initiate a new policy, they must have people to work with them who are *con amore* with themselves, and share in the aspirations and hopes of those responsible for the policy of the present Board of Agriculture. I parted on good terms with the old agents, and, while they were not obstructive, I felt that there was no great anxiety or desire on their part to help the villages and bring the people back to the soil. I hope the result of the change will be that a very large number of people will be brought back to the land, and that almost a peaceful revolution will be effected on the Crown estates.

I have not attempted to answer everything the noble Marquess has said, but I was very pleased to hear the generous words which fell from him at the end of his speech, and to feel that we have heard the last, in this House at any rate, of Party recriminations. I recognise that noble Lords opposite have worked in the past and are now working for the establishment of small holdings, and I hope that the Small Holdings Bill now before the House of Commons will receive your favourable consideration if and when it is brought up from another place.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I think we are very much indebted to the noble Marquess for the debate which he has initiated to-night, if it were only for the very instructive and amusing speech to which we have just listened, illustrated as it has been with the copious anecdote which always interests your Lordships, and of which in unlimited quantity the noble Earl is the fortunate possessor. In the first place let me say one word with regard to his last sentence. The noble Earl said he was glad to understand that your Lordships were going to give a favourable reception to the English Small Holdings Bill when it comes up to this House. I do not know what remark of the noble Marquess he may have interpreted to mean that he was in favour of the Small Holdings Bill; at all events, I did not hear the noble Marquess say anything which would bear that meaning.

We are indebted to the noble Marquess for this, that we have now elicited from the noble Earl what the real meaning of this document is. I must say I thought it was intended to be a fair representation of the evidence and of the Report of the Departmental Committee of 1906, and I propose to limit the few remarks which I shall make to your Lordships entirely to the Report of that Committee. The noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture has been so good as to tell us that this document was not intended as a fair representation of that Report or of the evidence, but that it was simply a collection of remarks in the Report or in the evidence which can be said, quite apart from the context, to sustain the position taken up by the Prime Minister. So far as the noble Earl spoke of the Prime Minister, I think he was rather under a misapprehension in supposing that there could be any irregularity in taking exception in this House to a speech by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's speech was not delivered in the other House of Parliament but in the country; and, moreover, while we readily accept the noble Earl's statement that the Prime Minister did not intend to refer to any landlord or landlords, I must confess that that rather surprises me when I look at this Paper, which is confessedly drawn up as a vindication of what the Prime Minister said. Will the noble Earl look at page 13, Appendix No. XII. It is there stated—

> "They (*i.e.*, the nail makers at Catshill in Worcestershire) endeavoured to obtain land from a neighbouring landowner——"

we all know that that referred to Lord Plymouth——

> "but a rule on the estate was not to let more than a quarter of an acre to labourers; that was found insufficient."

That certainly is a reference to an individual landowner, and I believe that Lord Plymouth, had he been present, would have been able to give an excellent explanation of that rule on that estate. The noble Earl has thrown considerable doubt on the credibility of his own correspondents. He differs entirely from Mr. Rew, who says that—

> "The Board of Agriculture in their staff of correspondents possess facilities for obtaining information by well qualified observers distributed in every county of Great Britain."

And Mr. Rew adds later on that they are—

> "A body of competent observers."

The noble Earl accepts the statement of any correspondent who happens to agree with him, but those who do not so agree, and who are apparently by far the larger number, he says are large farmers or land agents, and there is some reason or another why in regard to this particular matter your Lordships should not attach much credence to their evidence.

With reference to the experiment which is being made on the Crown lands, I agree that this is not the occasion to ask the noble Earl to inform us as to the terms on which those lands are being let, but I venture to hope that he will, when the experiment has been carried out to some considerable extent, give us a clear return showing (1) the rent of the land; (2) the cost of equipment; and (3) the amount of rent which has to be charged to the small holders to cover the cost of equipment. If the rent charged is not sufficient to cover the whole cost then these are charitable small holdings, and I understood that it was stated in the other House of Parliament that the Government had no intention whatever of instituting charitable small holdings. I can only say that my experience in these matters differs from that of the noble Earl. I have tried small holdings, and I am sorry to say that I have had more cases of failure than of success. At all events I hope we shall be clearly informed what the amount of rent is. I have no desire to be a pessimist, but I believe that for a holding of thirty or forty acres, after you have incurred the cost of a house and buildings, you will find it very difficult indeed to obtain an economic rent.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, there is one thing which is always refreshing about the speeches of the noble Eral the President of the Board of Agriculture, and that is the candour which characterises them. He has told us to-night that this document which has been laid on the Table of your Lordships House, and which we thought was going to be the absolute proof positive of the contentions of the Prime Minister the other day, is really nothing but an *ex parte* statement. Now, knowing that, we look upon it in an entirely different light; we regard it in the light of those political pamphlets which are issued by party organisations on both sides, in which passages from the speeches of Ministers or of those opposed to them are culled without reference to the context. I should like to ask the noble Earl whether he would be prepared to incur the expense of producing the case for the other side, with which I should be very glad to furnish him. I think it would be considerably more expensive than the production of this little pamphlet; it would certainly be much more voluminous.

The noble Earl, I was very sorry to hear, threw considerable doubt on the accuracy of the information given by the agricultural correspondents of his Board. When I was President of the Board of Agriculture I was responsible for the appointment of these gentlemen, and I venture to say that upon all matters agricultural within their respective districts they would be accepted by everybody who knew them as competent judges and competent witnesses, and if they do not happen to have the enthusiasm for small holdings which the noble Earl himself has he must forgive them if they state their free and candid opinion. At any rate the noble Earl has relied upon those opinions in the document which has been quoted to-day, and I venture to think that if we are going to rely upon official evidence on this question we can rely more safely upon the information of the agricultural correspondents of the Board of agriculture than on any other witnesses in the country.

The noble Earl said that the Prime Minister did not mean in his speech to accuse anybody; it was neither landowners, land agents, nor county councils who gave a blank denial to the demand for land. But I thought my noble friend the Lord President of the Council told us distinctly the other day that what was in the mind of the Prime Minister was, not the refusal of the landowners to provide the land, but the apathy of the county councils whose duty it was to put in force the Small Holdings Acts. A remedy is, I believe, to be provided for this state of affairs. It has been described by a distinguished member of the Government as "ginger." Ginger is to be applied to these local authorities, and the hope of His Majesty's Government is that it will have the effect of stimulating them to the discharge of duties which they are supposed to have hitherto neglected.

I do not intend to be guilty of a breach of order by discussing a measure which is not before this House, but I am told that the Bill which has been introduced in another place is largely founded upon the Report of the Committee over which I had the honour to preside. I can only say that this reminds me of the pictures of some of your Lordships in *Vanity Fair*; there is some slight resemblance, but in all other respects they are caricatures. The noble Earl said it was good news to hear from the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition that landowners are willing to provide land. It would have been much better news to many of us who are interested in this question of small holdings if the noble Earl had shown us how we are to find the equipment for these holdings. The real difficulty is not in securing the land, but in finding the money to erect the necessary buildings.

The noble Earl said just now that it is not tenants who are wanted, but land. I venture to say that if the noble Earl, on behalf of the Government, will undertake to find the money for providing the equipment he will have more land offered to him than there will be tenants to take it. The noble Earl says there is an "unsatisfied demand" for small holdings. I do not deny it; but what is wanted are fully equipped small holdings. If the noble Earl would provide some means by which cheap loans could be granted to landowners more small holdings would be created in that way than in any other. I say, in conclusion, that the only way in which you can multiply small holdings in this country, and that only in places where they can be satisfactorily and economically cultivated, is by equipping them with such buildings and houses as will enable them to be properly farmed by those who may occupy them.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, perhaps I may venture to recall the House to the real origin of this debate, which seems to me to have been overlooked by the last two noble Earls who have spoken. What happened was this. On 25th April the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition called attention to a particular speech made by the Prime Minister, and I notice that in *Hansard* the debate is headed "The Prime Minister and Small Holdings." The object of the noble Marquess, as we understood, was to prove that in his speech at the Holborn Restaurant the Prime Minister had gone beyond the facts of the case in, as the noble Marquess thought, accusing the landowning class generally of refusing land for the purposes of small holdings. In fact, the noble Marquess used the words—

> "the kind of organised refusal among landlords which has been suggested in the Prime Minister's speech."

We endeavoured to show that the Prime Minister had never suggested anything of the kind. He had, no doubt, in his mind cases where landlords had refused land. He also, as I endeavoured to point out at the time, had in his mind the refusal of county councils in certain cases to make use of the Small Holdings Act. But he certainly never suggested that there was anything like an organised refusal on the part of the landowners of this country to allow land to be used for the purpose of small holdings.

As we understood, the noble Marquess asked for further information to see if we could substantiate what the Prime Minister had said. We certainly never understood that the noble Marquess had asked for a complete *précis* of all the information which had been given from every point of view before the various Committees and Commissions which have sat on this subject. If any noble Lord will study *Hansard* he will see that no such demand was made. What my noble friend was asked to do was to produce the warrant which the Prime Minister had for saying in his Holborn speech that—

> "There is a whole mass of official testimony to show that a strong demand for this type of holding exists in many parts of the country, and if only this demand could be satisfied, the young men and the best men in the villages, instead of setting their faces in despair towards the town, would be glad to remain at home. We hear of this unsatisfied land hunger very largely in the East of England, we hear of it in the Midlands, we hear of it in the Southern Counties."

We understood that we were asked to substantiate what the Prime Minister had said, and therefore it seems to me scarcely reasonable to complain of this Return as being what the noble Earl who last spoke described as a political pamphlet of a purely one-sided character. It carries out the demand made by the noble Marquess and no more. If we had supposed that a complete *précis* of all the evidence that had been given was demanded, I have no doubt that my noble friend behind me would have supplied it.

The noble Earl who spoke last offered to put the case for the other side, but surely that was unnecessary. The case for the other side has already been supplied by the noble Marquess who opened this debate; he picked out all the extracts favourable to his contention, as he had a perfect right to do, and put his case with the greatest fullness, and certainly we have no complaint to make on that score. But I do trust that we shall be acquitted of any intention of unfairness because of the form in which this Memorandum has been prepared. We simply intended to meet a personal attack on the Prime Minister for certain words which he had used in a speech outside.

The noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition seemed to think that a denial of land for small holdings was no longer a denial if there was a reason for it which reasonable people would not consider a bad one, and he pointed out that in a great many cases landlords were prevented from forming small holdings by the necessity of handing over those holdings fully equipped. I entirely agree. He also pointed out that there were, as is well known to your Lordships, cases in which the granting of a farm for small holdings might mean the disturbance of an old and valued tenant. That also is perfectly true; but it does not alter the fact of the denial, and the man who wants a small holding does not particularly care what is operating in the mind of the landlord. What interests him is to know whether he can get the small holding or not. If it is the case that landlords cannot or will not go to the expense of equiping the holdings, that no doubt may be a reason, but it cannot always be taken to be a justification.

In this matter of equipment I think we must all agree that it is absurd to suppose that landlords will parcel out a farm into small holdings, and erect expensive houses and buildings upon each holding, without the prospect of obtaining at any rate a certain interest upon the outlay in the form of a larger rent for each piece than could be allotted to that piece when the whole was treated as one farm. But, on the other hand, I should not be prepared to lay down as a general proposition that even where the landlord could obtain, as he undoubtedly could in many parts of England, a very considerably increased rent from cutting up farms into small holdings, in every case he would be either able or willing to provide the outlay. In a great many cases landlords have not got the money, and even where they have it it is more simple and easy to leave it in an investment than to put it into what after all is a somewhat precarious form of investment — namely, farm buildings. Therefore to say this is to bring no charge against landlords as a class. But there is also the fact to face that, where small holdings could have been economically created by an advance of public money or possibly by borrowing, in a great many cases of that kind landlords have refused to move; and I do not necessarily blame them myself, because one knows that often the circumstances do not permit of their doing so.

The noble Earl who has just sat down spoke with a warmth which we all felt did him credit of the correspondents of the Board of Agriculture. These gentlemen are, as we all know, locally chosen for their high character and expert knowledge. But my noble friend behind me was, I think, perfectly within his right in pointing out that they do, in very many cases, belong to that class of persons who, I do not say are hostile to small holdings, but who certainly would not go out of their way to encourage small holdings. It was very far, I am sure, from the intention of my noble friend to cast any imputation on these gentlemen, of whom I know he has a high opinion; but I am bound to say that it is not in my judgment overstating the case to say that, taking the large farmers of England as a class, they do not look favourably upon the institution of small holdings. As regards the Crown lands, my noble friend is also, I think, entitled to point to the remarkable demand that has been made. When it is found that in almost all the districts where Crown lands are situated there is a demand for small holdings, surely it is not a large assumption to infer that a similar demand must exist elsewhere.

As to the inquiries of Lord Camperdown, my noble friend tells me that in his Report of next year he will endeavour, as far as possible, to give detailed information of the kind for which the noble Earl has asked. He fully recognises, and we must all recognise, that if these small holdings are to be of any value as an object lesson to the country they must be proved to be established on economic principles.

In conclusion, let me say that noble Lords opposite appear to assume that we belong to a class of people who are prepared to proceed in a perfectly reckless manner in this connection, in the belief that you have only to cut up land into small holdings in any part of England and plant tenants upon it and the wilderness will immediately blossom like the rose; but I can assure the House that we have no such belief. We are aware that there are considerable districts in this country which are not fitted for the creation of small holdings, and I can assure the noble Marquess and the House that our one desire is to proceed with all due caution, enlisting local knowledge and experience wherever we can; and we are confident that, by the means which we hope to place at the disposal of the local authorities, there will be a substantial advance in the next few years, and I hope for many years to come, in the direction desired.

LORD HERRIES: My Lords, as this is a subject in which I have taken a great interest for many years, I hope I may be pardoned for troubling your Lordships with a few remarks. I should like to ask the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture if there has been any great number of applications in respect of Crown lands in the East Riding of Yorkshire. There are, I believe, 18,000 acres of Crown lands in the East

Riding, and as we have been told that there is a great demand for small holdings in that county, it would be interesting to know if there have been many applications for small holdings in the case of the Crown lands.

I wish also to defend the County Council of the East Riding of Yorkshire against the accusation that seems to have been brought against many of the county councils in the country, that they did not take pains, when the Act of 1892 came into operation, to discover how far small holdings were required. I remember very well what we did in the County Council of the East Riding to endeavour to bring about an extension of small holdings. We advertised in all the local papers and sent round circulars inviting those who wished to have small holdings to communicate with us. Not only did we do that, but we formed a sub-committee and drew up certain rules for their guidance. Those rules were drafted by two Liberal Members of Parliament representing the county, and it is not, therefore, likely that the rules were too exacting or hard on applicants for small holdings.

In return for all this effort, which we continued to make for twelve months, we only received nineteen applications. A committee went down to make inquiries on the spot and entered into negotiations to purchase a farm of sixty acres in order to satisfy the applicants, who included six labourers, five carters, cowkeepers, cab proprietors, and others. The farm was offered to us for £2,700 or £45 an acre; but when they found what they would have to pay in rent, allowing interest for the buildings, they one and all declined to go on with it. That experience shows that it is not the rent that operates against the creation of small holdings, but the cost of the equipment.

In the village in which I reside there are only four or five cottages to which land is not attached; and in the neighbouring village, which entirely belongs to me, there are three cottages only out of forty which have not land attached. If I can get £1 an acre and 2 per cent. for buildings and equipment, I am quite satisfied, not because it pays me, but I take into consideration the whole estate. I could quote the case of a family on my estate, who not many years ago, in the seventies, had a small holding of 30 acres. The father and his three sons are now farming 1,500 acres. Again, a shoemaker, who originally had a small holding, now farms 120 acres. That shows what an advantage it is to have proper men on the small holdings, and to give them a chance of rising in life. That has been my object; but I do not think that if we obtained from the towns men unaccustomed to the land and put them into houses and gave them 5 or 6 acres to manage it would be at all successful.

In conclusion, I would say that I shall be only too glad to do all I can to assist the Government in bringing forward a Small Holdings Bill so long as the ratepayers are saved from any charge being placed upon them in respect of it, and so long as the scheme is not a charitable one. I hope that, whatever measure is passed for small holdings, it will be on those terms, for I believe it would not otherwise be for the advantage of the country generally.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, there have been one or two statements in the course of the discussion this evening which I do not think we can allow to pass without some observation. One is the statement made by the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture, who protested, as I understood, against the speech of the Prime Minister being commented upon in this House. That is an entirely new doctrine and one which might lead to very great inconvenience. The noble Earl will remember that the speech in question was not delivered in the House of Commons, but at the Holborn Restaurant, and the suggestion that we should be debarred from making any comments in your Lordships' House upon a Prime Minister's statement because he does not happen to be a Member of this House is one which I do not think has ever been put forward before by a responsible statesman.

Another statement of importance which was made by the noble Earl who spoke last from the Government Bench, as well as by the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture, was with respect to the Memorandum now under discussion. I am bound to say that I heard at first with great astonishment the statement of the noble Earl the President of the

Board of Agriculture that this Memorandum was intended to be a one-sided document, and I think the noble Earl took credit to himself for having succeeded in making it such. The noble Earl the Lord President, I understand, takes the same view, that it was not intended to give in this Memorandum a real statement of the facts, but only a statement of part of the facts.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My point was that the noble Marquess asked for a Memorandum, if one could be prepared, which would show that the Prime Minister's statement was not an exaggerated statement. We endeavoured to supply that, and that alone.

EARL CAWDOR: I quite understand that to be the view of the noble Earl, but I venture to say it is a view which will not commend itself to your Lordships. It is perfectly impossible that the Prime Minister's statement can be justified if you are to take only small pieces of the evidence given at previous inquiries, utilise those, and suppress the rest. That is the course which has been taken. May I read to your Lordships the heading of this Memorandum which, I suppose, is intended to explain what the Paper is? This professes to be a—

"Memorandum of evidence contained in Parliamentary Papers as to the demand for allotments and small holdings and as to the difficulty of obtaining land for those purposes."

Is any one going to seriously contend that you can give a proper return of the difficulty of obtaining land for these purposes when you suppress every single bit of evidence you can find to show that land can be easily obtained, and when you pick out little bits of evidence favourable to one side and put that forward as the whole of the story? I say that this Memorandum on the face of it professes to be an accurate and complete summary of the evidence under this head, but the inside of the document does not tally with its title. I think it is a strange justification of what I think was a very grave charge made by the Prime Minister against a large class in this country.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): I deny that.

Earl Cawdor.

EARL CAWDOR: I am glad to hear the noble Marquess's repudiation. I will tell the noble Marquess why I was led to that conclusion. The noble Marquess will remember the debate on 25th April last, when my noble friend on my left (the Marquess of Lansdowne) made his speech. The noble Marquess made it perfectly clear then what was in his mind in referring to this speech. He asked what was the meaning of that remarkable passage in which the Prime Minister dwelt upon the dislike of the squire to see such common things as cabbages and pigs and unseemly outhouses. That was the description, that the squire and his friends "in society" found something displeasing in the appearance of those familiar objects, and that it was because those familiar objects were displeasing that this denial took place.

I adhere still, in spite of what the noble Marquess the Leader of the House says, that that was at that time a distinct charge made by the Prime Minister against a large class of the people of this country. There were more passages of the same kind all pointing in that direction. There was a passage containing a reference to the increase in the number of game-keepers and to the time wasted in discussions as to the hares and pheasants of the landlords. And you find passages of that kind in close juxtaposition with references to derelict farms and deserted villages. I adhere to my view of that speech and what that speech meant, but I accept absolutely and with much pleasure the statement of the noble Marquess that the charge is not put forward to-day by His Majesty's Government, and that it is practically withdrawn.

But with regard to the Memorandum, I assert that the impression derived from the statements made in it in reference to twenty out of the thirty counties referred to is absolutely counter to the impression conveyed by the evidence as a whole. Your Lordships will remember that the President of the Board of Agriculture undertook to lay before the House what he described as a condensation of the evidence. Why is there not a proper condensation of the whole of the evidence? Why is there merely a part extracted for the purpose of showing one side of the facts?

I wish to say a word on the very peculiar manner in which the noble Earl has dealt with the correspondents of his Department. After describing them as men of the greatest mark and renown in agricultural circles, he suggests that their evidence is not to be relied upon on questions of fact. I do not think the noble Earl's correspondents will thank him for the character he has been good enough to give them. I think we ought to have some further explanation of the rather strange transaction which has taken place with regard to Messrs. Clutton and Messrs. Smith. The noble Earl gave your Lordships to understand that he and these gentlemen parted as the best of friends. He did not, it seems, kick them downstairs, but, at any rate, he gave them notice to quit. I should like to know whether it is alleged that they neglected or refused to carry out any instructions given them by the Board of Agriculture with respect to small holdings. We have been told that the Memorandum was intended to be one-sided. It would be unfortunate, however, if this document which bears on the outside a statement leading one to suppose that it contains something diametrically opposite from what is found within, were taken as a precedent for future memoranda.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, we have had an interesting discussion, introduced in a very courteous speech by the noble Marquess opposite. I regret that his example in tone and spirit has not been followed in the speech to which we have just listened. It has been said that my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture took exception to allusions being made in this House to a speech by the Prime Minister outside. That was not the case. It is not contended that in this House or in the other House Members are not entitled to make remarks upon a speech by a Minister. It has always been done, and it is a perfectly proper thing to do. What my noble friend meant was simply to lay stress on the disadvantage of making such criticism here, where the Minister could not answer for himself. I think my noble friend, if he will pardon my saying so, went beyond the usual Parliamentary practice in this matter, but that is what he meant.

As to the famous Memorandum which has given so much debating amusement to noble Lords opposite, I am inclined to think that the objection which is taken to its construction must arise from a forgetfulness of what was the demand made upon the Government in regard to the Papers that were to be supplied. What we were asked to supply was the evidence, or a summary of the evidence, upon which it was supposed the remarks of the Prime Minister were founded. We were not asked to give all the evidence on the whole subject, and if we had given the other side of the question we should have given something on which my right hon. friend's speech was not founded. That was what was asked from us, and that is what we have given; and I must take leave to say that I do not think it is in accordance with the usual courtesies of this House that we should be told in those circumstances that we were suppressing evidence. That is not language to which in this House we are accustomed.

The noble Earl went on to say that he accepted the interjection which I ventured to make. I repeat what I have already said, that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister did not intend to make a charge against a particular class in the country, and his remarks were not directed against a particular class, but were intended to state—what I believe is true—that great difficulties have been found in obtaining land for these purposes, and that the law at present in force has been a failure, and upon that was founded the view of the Government that it is necessary to amend the law and to take further steps to secure the establishment of small holdings.

I am very sorry that the discussion should have wandered off as it has done. I do not think that these preliminary skirmishes are very advantageous. Hereafter an important measure upon this subject will come up from the other House—I venture to prophesy that it will come up. There are people in the country who are constantly saying that your Lordships are bitter opponents of the creation of small holdings, and that you will throw out or otherwise destroy this Bill when it comes up. My Lords, I do not believe that those statements are correct. I believe, on the contrary, that your Lordships will give to this Bill when it comes here an impartial and fair consideration. I said so when last I had the honour of addressing your Lordships on this question. I do ask you, therefore, not by continual discussions of this kind to strengthen in the minds of those who do not love this House the notion that you are the opponents of small holdings.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN : My Lords, in accordance with notice I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether any answers have been received from county councils in reply to the letter of the Board of 13th March last. In March last the noble Earl sent a Circular Letter to the county councils requesting them to inform him what steps they had taken with regard to small holdings in the past, and also to give their views as to any demands that might exist for small holdings at the present time ; and the noble Earl undertook that when he had received a number of these answers from the county councils he would lay them on the Table. I cannot help supposing that he must have received a good many replies by this time, and I beg to ask whether he will lay them on the Table.

EARL CARRINGTON : The Circular issued on 14th February was sent to ninety-five councils, and I have so far received fifty-four replies. The majority merely promised to pay full attention to the Circular, but in twenty-five instances it is stated that nothing at all has been done since the last Return made in 1902. The whole of the information will be laid as soon as it is complete.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN : I am, of course, satisfied with that answer, but I would like to ask the noble Earl whether, in the replies he has received, there has been any answer to the question whether or not any demand exists at the present time.

The Marquess of Ripon.

EARL CARRINGTON : I shall be glad to put the answers that have been received at the disposal of the noble Earl at any time he may like to see them. I do not wish to keep anything back. But I think it would be better not to publish the replies as a Paper until such time as they are complete.

House adjourned at a quarter past seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 30th May, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. : Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [Lords],—(King's Consent Signified)- Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments.

North Staffordshire Railway Bill. As amended, considered : to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15). Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Manchester, presented by Dr. Macnamara ; supported by Mr. Burns.

Ordered, That Standing Order 193A be suspended and the Bill be now read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Manchester," accordingly read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 215.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Central London Railway Bill; Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Message from the Lords, That they have agreed to,—Maidstone Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Joint Committee." [Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords].

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition from Wharncliffe Silkstone, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Denny; Dunipace; Larkhall; and Muirkirk; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Wishaw, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against — From Buxton; Earl's Court; Preston next Faversham; Taunton; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table.

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.

Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RENTS AND ROYALTIES ARISING FROM MINES UNDER THE SEA.

Return [presented 28th May] to be printed. [No. 167.]

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION RULES.

Paper [presented 29th May] to be printed. [No. 168.]

EAST INDIA (PLAGUE).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 29th May; *Dr. Rutherford*]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports. Annual Series, Nos. 3806 and 3807 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (NO. 14, 1907).

Copy presented, of additional Agreement between the United Kingdom and France, respecting the Parcel Post Service between British India and France. Signed at Paris, 30th March, 1907. Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 10th

May, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Arundel Port. Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from 25th March, 1906, to 25th March, 1907 [by Act].

LAND JUDGE'S COURT (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "by counties, of the Estates in the Land Judge's Court over which Receivers have been appointed (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, Nos. 182, 256, and 264, of Sessions 1904, 1905 and 1906.")—(*Mr. Clancy.*)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AGRICULTURE, ETC.) (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "giving, in respect of each of the financial years 1898–9 to 1905–6, (a) the amount of Residue Grant available to local authorities in each county in Scotland, including the amount (if any) of Equivalent Grant allocated for purposes of Technical Education, and (b) details of the expenditure out of these sums during each of the financial years referred to upon (c) education in agriculture or allied interests, embracing dairying, veterinary science, horticulture, and forestry, together with (d) particulars of the expenditure in respect of these subjects by the Scottish Education Department out of the Votes applicable to the Department and out of the funds available under Section 2, Sub-section (4), of The Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

PUNJAB LAND COLONISATION BILL.

Address for "Return of the Punjab Land Colonisation Bill as originally presented to the Punjab Legislative Council; of the Report of the Select Committee thereon; and of the Debates in Council relating thereto."—(*Sir Henry Cotton.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Naval Pigeon Service.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Naval Pigeon Service, organised in May, 1904, is still in existence; and, if so, what is the number of homing pigeon owners who have joined the organisation; and further, whether any practical test of the system has been made, and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Naval Volunteer Pigeon Service is still in existence, and 743 homing pigeon owners are enrolled. The system was tested during the grand manœuvres in 1906, and the results were satisfactory.

Dublin Postal Staff.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state the number of telegraph messengers dismissed in Dublin since the termination of the South African War, and the cause of their dismissal; the number of telegraph messengers appointed assistant postmen in Dublin since the termination of the South African War; the number appointed town postmen, and the number awaiting appointments; the number of ex-Army men appointed assistant postmen; the number appointed town postmen in Dublin since the termination of the South African War, and how many are awaiting appointments; will he say for what purpose sixty-six dummy muskets have been introduced into the Dublin General Post Office; whether, if smartness is required amongst the boys, he will consider the advisability of employing a gymnasium instructor instead of the present drill instructor; and whether he will state the remuneration received by telegraph messengers for Sunday duties in Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will make inquiry on this subject and communicate with the hon. Member.

Closing of Workshops of Central Unemployed Body.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has any intention of closing the workshops now under the control of the London Central Unemployed body; and, if so, could he give the reasons why these women should be deprived of this opportunity of living until some suitable employment can be found for them.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) It does not rest with me to determine whether these workshops should be closed. This is a matter for the Central (Unemployed) Body, under whose control, as my hon. friend is aware, they are.

Additional Police in Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will indicate the districts in Ireland in which additional forces of constabulary are employed, stating the names of districts, counties in which situate, total number of additional police employed, and the circumstances under which, in the case of each such district, it was considered necessary to supplement the ordinary police establishment.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Additional forces of constabulary are employed as follows:—County Clare—Districts of Ennis, Corofin, Tulla, and Sixmilebridge: one head constable and sixty-five men of the reserve force. County Cork, E. R.—Districts of Newmarket and Midleton: seven men of the reserve. Counties Leitrim and Cavan—Districts of Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton: twenty-two men of the Reserve. County Galway, E. R.—District of Athenry: thirty-five men of the Reserve. County Roscommon—Districts of Strokestown and Castlerea: one district inspector, two head constables, eighty-three men of the Reserve, and fifty men from other counties. King's County—District of Parsonstown: one district inspector and twenty-five men of the Reserve. In all these cases the augmentation of the local police force was necessitated by the disturbed state of the district.

Pension of Mr. Ashman, of Gold Coast Service.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on what grounds a pension in respect of service on the Gold Coast, from which service he was invalided, has been refused to Mr. T. A. Ashman on his appointment to a tide-waitership in Jamaica at a much-reduced salary.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Mr. Ashman was transferred without breach of continuity from the Gold Coast to Jamaica. Under the regulations the period of his service in the Gold Coast is pensionable, but he is not qualified to receive a pension in respect of that period until he retires from the Government service.

Rank of Officers employed on Customs Checking Duties (Tea Accounts).

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state the rank and rates of salary of the Customs officers engaged at the large outports of Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, and Belfast on checking duties in connection with the tea accounts, and the average length of service of such officers; what was the grade or grades provided with Treasury sanction, in Customs General Order 25/1901, and subsequently, for similar duties in the Tea Accounts Office, London, and the salaries appertaining thereto; and whether lower section port clerks with a total length of service of less than seven years, and of corresponding inexperience, are frequently employed on checking duties in the Tea Accounts Branch of the Long Room, London.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that the checking duties in connection with the tea accounts kept at the ports of Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow and Belfast are performed by examining officers, first class, whose scale of salary is from £230 to £340. The average service of the officers concerned is twenty-eight and a half years. The duties in question at the four ports named are unimportant in volume, and form only a small portion of the daily work of the officers. In the Tea Accounts Office, London, the more important checking duties are assigned to clerks of the upper section of the second class, whose scale of salary is from £200 to £300, and the less important to clerks of the lower section of the second class (salary £70 to £200), and abstractors (salary £80 to £150), and assistant clerks (salary £55 to £150), the abstractors and assistant clerks having checking allowances of £30 per annum. These allowances were sanctioned by the Treasury, and communicated to the Customs department in the General Order referred to. Lower section clerks of short service are not frequently employed on the more important checking work, such employment being limited to periods of absence by leave or sickness of upper section clerks, or of exceptional pressure.

Civil Service—Promotion by Selection.

Mr. CLELAND: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many promotions have been made under the paragraph of Treasury Minute, 31st March, 1891, headed promotion by selection; from and to what positions have the appointments been made; and how many such appointments have been made for exceptional merit and how many for special services.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) A complete Answer to this Question in the form it is put would require, I am informed, an examination of the circumstances of every promotion since the date of the Minute, and I do not think such an exhaustive inquiry would be justified by its results. The Commissioners of Customs inform me, however, that the special promotions to which the Question refers have been few in number throughout, and they have given me the following information concerning special promotions in the outdoor department since the appointment of the present Board in 1904.

Promotions made since the 1st January, 1904, on account of exceptional merit or special services:—

Nature of promotion.		On account of exceptional merit.	On account of special services.
From	To		
Surveyor, Second Class .	Inspector . . .	1	—
Preventive officer, Lower Section	Chief Preventive officer	—	1
Preventive officer, Lower Section.	Preventive officer, Upper Section	—	1
Preventive man . .	Preventive officer, Lower Section	10	—
	Total . . .	11	2

Dublin Revaluation.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the number of tenements to be dealt with in the revaluation of Dublin; how many of these have been already surveyed and valued respectively; and what increase has been made in the staff of the Commissioner of Valuation to enable the revaluation to be carried out with reasonable expedition.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that the number of tenements to be dealt with in the revaluation of Dublin is estimated at 47,000. The number surveyed and measured to date is about 3,200. In addition to this a set of maps for the whole city, showing every holding, and a complete copy of the valuation lists for the city have been prepared. The present increase in the staff of the office is five surveyors.

Excise Licenses for Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state the total number of excise licences issued for the years ended 31st March, 1905, 31st March, 1906, and

31st March, 1907, in England and Wales, authorising the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail on the premises, and the numbers in each year authorising such consumption on the premises under the following heads, viz., publicans; retailers of beer, cider, and perry; retailers of beer and wine; retailers of cider and perry; retailers of wine; and sweets retailers (not publicans), excluding in all cases occasional licences; and if he will state the total number of part-year licences issued for publicans in the above-mentioned years.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) Total number of Excise Licences issued in England and Wales authorising the sale of Intoxicating Liquors by retail on the premises (exclusive of occasional licences for the years ended 31st March, 1905, 1906, and 1907, respectively:—

Licences to Vendors of Intoxicating Liquors.	Year ended 31st March		
	1905.	1906.	1907.
Publicans	66,239	65,990	65,853
Retailers of beer, cider, and perry .	28,522	28,096	27,433
Retailers of beer and wine . . .	4,845	4,756	4,711
Retailers of cider and perry . . .	82	78	78
Retailers of wine	297	288	306
Sweets retailers (not publicans) . .	1,045	991	934
Total number of "on" licences . .	101,030	100,199	99,315
Publicans (part year) included in above figures	292	236	206

Land Tax Commissioners for the Brixton Division.

Mr. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will give a list of the names and addresses of the land tax commissioners in the Brixton division of Lambeth to whom a summons to attend the meeting of 8th and 9th April last was sent.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The names and addresses of land tax commissioners are published at the time of appointment in the London Gazette. The Treasury have no complete list, and the number of commissioners in some divisions is very large. Perhaps my hon. friend will communicate with me if he has in his mind the case of any particular commissioner in the Brixton Division who has not received a summons.

Irish Land Act—Treasury Advances.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there are any financial transactions under the control or cognisance of the Treasury, other than those under the Irish Land Act of 1903, in which public money is advanced to one of two joint owners in excess of the gross value of the joint property, and the other joint owner made liable directly, and the ratepayers of the county contingently, for the repayment of this advance with interest; and can he state any other cases in which losses have arisen equal to the losses known to the Treasury to have arisen under the Act of 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) As I indicated in answer to a similar Question on the 23rd May last year, I am not aware of any cases such as described in the Question, either under the Irish Land Act, 1903, or any other Act.

Irish Post Offices on Licensed Premises.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that in many towns in Ireland the business of the Post Office is carried on upon licensed premises, even in considerable towns where there is a choice of suitable premises; has he taken any steps to put an end to this state of things; and, if not, will he give the matter his early attention.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) As I have before stated, when questioned on this subject by hon. Members, it is the rule that sub-postmasters should not be persons licensed for the sale of drink; and it is only when no other arrangement is practicable that exceptions to the rule are allowed. There are very few cases in which the licensed business is not completely separated from the post office business.

Postal Deliveries in Bar of Slattenagh.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that there is no daily delivery of letters in the townland of Bar of Slattenagh, near Kiltyclogher, county Leitrim, and that the rural postman who daily delivers letters in the adjacent townland of Towerbeg passes on his rounds by the doors of the houses in Bar of Slattenagh; and will he arrange that this postman shall deliver letters in Bar of Slattenagh, or otherwise provide daily delivery of letters there.

(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Castleblayney Post Office Site.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the present post office premises in Castleblayney were recently bought by a Protestant named Gray in competition with the chairman of the local branch of the United Irish League; that the League has now brought pressure on the postal authorities to change the site of the post office and to purchase a site belonging to a Roman Catholic and in the occupation of a Protestant watchmaker called Flemming; that Flemming has now received notice to quit; will he say, in view of the fact that the postmistress is the wife of the chairman of the branch of the league in question, if her reports on the matter were acted on by the postal authorities; and if, having regard to the fact that Flemming can get no other premises in Castleblayney adequate for his business, the postal authorities will see that he is compensated for the loss of his business if the proposed purchase is carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am not aware of the circumstances, but I will have inquiry made and inform the hon. Member of the result.

Employment of Midwives.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the number of midwives who were employed during the last or any recent period of twelve months as parish midwives; whether midwives so employed are regarded as poor law officers; and whether any order of the Board has been issued with regard to their appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am not in a position to give the information desired by my hon. friend. The midwives referred to would not usually be regarded as Poor Law officers. There is no order of the Local Government Board with regard to their appointment.

Inquests on Deceased Inmates of London Workhouses.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number of inquests held on persons who died in London workhouses and infirmaries during the latest year for which the figures are available; the proportion of inquests held to the total number of deaths in such institutions, and the number of inquests held on persons over sixty years of age, and the proportion to the total number of deaths over that age; whether he can say what is the general practice in regard to the holding of inquests; and what are the fees paid to medical officers and coroners in connection therewith.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have made inquiry, but I do not find that any official Returns give the particulars desired by the hon. Member. The subject of coroners and inquests is not within my province, but I may state that the London coroners are paid fixed salaries, and that a medical man who attends an inquest on a summons from the coroner is entitled under the Coroners Act, 1887, to a fee of one guinea for attending to give evidence at an inquest at which he has made no post mortem examination, and of two guineas for making a post mortem examination and attending to give evidence thereon.

Irish Schools open on Saturdays.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many national schools in Ireland, not including model schools, are open for imparting secular instruction on Saturdays; what is the percentage of children attending model schools on Saturdays; and if he can explain why these schools are kept open for two hours and a half each Saturday.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education have no Return showing how many ordinary schools are open for secular instruction on Saturdays. There is no rule which necessitates the opening of such schools on Saturdays, but managers may keep their schools open on that day if they so desire. The Commissioners themselves are managers of the model schools and these schools have always been kept open for half the day on Saturdays, with, as the Commissioners believe, a beneficial effect.

Attendance at Church of Pupils of Killowen Street National School.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the pupils of Killowen Street national school, Coleraine, county Derry, are sometimes marched to church to attend a service after being marked present at school; if such action is carried out by the permission of the Board; and, if so, on what grounds.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they have no information upon the subject matter of this Question

Marlfield National School, Belfast.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what were the charges brought against the Reverend J. C. Emerson Doran, in his capacity as manager of Marlfield national school, Belfast, at the inquiry held by Mr. Hynes, Chief Inspector to the National Board; and what action, if any, has been taken in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education are of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by publishing the information asked for in the Question. The Reverend Mr. Doran is not now the manager of a national school.

Amalgamation of Schools—Retention of Staff.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, in the case of amalgamation of two schools, boys' and girls', where the girls' school has an assistant and principal but the boys' a principal teacher only, and if the attendance in the amalgamated school did not maintain an average of ninety-five, he can say whether the three teachers would be retained, or would the assistant in the girls' school in such a case have to go.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that, in the case supposed in the Question, they would continue to recognise the three teachers, provided that an average attendance of the amalgamated school of not less than fifty girls should be maintained.

Templemore Petty Sessions Clerkship Vacancy.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the vacancy for clerk of petty sessions in Templemore, county Tipperary, has been filled; if so, seeing that the voting was even, will he say why there was not a new election; were any of the magistrates disqualified from voting; and, if so, what are their names and what were the grounds for disqualification.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The vacancy referred to was duly filled on 28th February last. Five votes of magistrates were given for each of the two candidates. Of the votes given for one candidate three were found to be invalid, and of the votes given for the other candidate one was invalid. The latter candidate was declared elected by the presiding magistrates and the election was subsequently approved by the Lord-Lieutenant. The votes disallowed in the case of the unsuccessful candidate were those of Messrs. Corcoran, Dwyer, and Hackett, and in the other case the vote disallowed was that of Admiral Fegan. In all four cases the vote was disallowed on the ground of insufficient attendances at petty sessions.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Edward Blackmore.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from an evicted tenant, Edward Blackmore, Piltown, on the estate of the Earl of Bessborough; whether the local inspector has inquired into this case; and whether any steps have been taken to reinstate.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners received the application in question on the 13th instant only. The case will be inquired into by an inspector in due course.

39th Brigade Royal Field Artillery—Compensation for Expenses incurred under Orders now Cancelled.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the 39th Brigade Royal Field Artillery received orders on 5th March, 1907, to leave Shorncliffe, where it had been stationed since March, 1906, and, after completing its practice at Okehampton, to proceed to Edinburgh on 23rd May to relieve the Scots Greys; whether he is aware that the order to go to Edinburgh was suddenly cancelled on 11th May, and the Brigade sent back to Shorncliffe, and whether, in view of the fact that the married officers and non-commissioned officers of the Brigade have been put to expense by this sudden change of order, in the way of changing houses, storing furniture and baggage, or transferring the same from Shorncliffe to Edinburgh, he will consider the advisability of granting reasonable compensation to such officers, non-commissioned officers, and men for the loss they have thus sustained through circumstances beyond their control.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I am prepared to recognise that the circumstances under which the orders were countermanded are of a somewhat exceptional character, and may justify the grant of some assistance where individuals have necessarily incurred out-of-pocket expenditure to no purpose. Any applications which may be put forward through the recognised channels will be carefully considered.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Royal Yacht "Alexandra."

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what the total estimated cost of the royal yacht "Alexandra" is, and to what service or use the yacht is to be put.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The estimated first cost of the "Alexandra" is £136,688, as shown on page 211 of the Navy Estimates for the current financial year. The new yacht is primarily intended to replace the "Osborne" and "Alberta," which are now worn out, and will be for His Majesty's general use, if he should require to visit any port of his Dominions or any Continental port into which the "Victoria and Albert" cannot enter.

Naval Manœuvres.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is now in a position to answer the question whether the usual naval manœuvres, which take place annually in June and July, will be held this year.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The naval manœuvres will not take place in the summer, but at a later date not yet definitely decided on.

This Answer also applied to the following Question:—

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether summer naval manœuvres will be held this year in order to test the new distribution scheme, or whether only the ordinary Fleet exercises will take place.

H.M.S. "Dreadnought."

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the extent of the damage recently sustained by H.M.S. "Dreadnought," and how long the necessary repairs will take.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The damage done to "Dreadnought" was confined to the plating of the port rudder. This plating became partly detached owing to the loosening of some of the rivets, and in consequence some of the wood filling pieces were lost. The main casting of the rudder itself is not impaired. The repairs will take from four to five days.

Sirocco Works, Belfast.

Mr. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is aware that the firm of Davidson and Co., Limited, Sirocco Works, Belfast, insist upon all men when entering their employment signing an agreement to cancel membership with any labourers' society or any union of which they are members, and that they shall not join any trade union while employed by this firm; can he say what is the class and the amount of work Davidson and Co., Limited, do as contractors to the Admiralty; and whether the refusal to their workmen of the right to combine in legal organisation disqualifies the firm to remain on the Admiralty list as a contractor to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No information to the effect stated in the first part of the Question has reached me. The firm in question holds contracts for the supply of ventilating fans, but only to a comparatively small extent. In accordance with the Resolution of the House all Admiralty contractors are required to pay the wages current in the district for competent workmen. The Admiralty have no power to go beyond this.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Davidson and Co. pay skilled labourers trades union rates, and that the unskilled labourers earn from 40s. to 50s. a week, often more than skilled labourers.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have no information as to that.

Mr. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the men went out on strike because——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Notice should be given of any further Question.

"The Truth about the Navy."

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many copies of the pamphlet entitled *The Truth About the Navy* have been distributed in the Fleet under the auspices of the Admiralty; and what is the cost to the nation of the production and circulation thereof.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Six hundred copies of this pamphlet were distributed, the exact cost being £21 18s. 7d.

The Royal Marines.

Mr. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will undertake that no action affecting the officers or men of the Royal Marines shall be taken by the Admiralty until the Report upon the Royal Marines, which is now under consideration, has been laid upon the Table of the House and opportunity has been given for full discussion of such Report.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon.

Member for Peterborough on the 9th April.†

Artillery Bogus Quick-Firers.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether thirty batteries of field artillery are to be supplied with bogus quick-firers at a cost of £1,000 per battery; whether the cost of the real article would be £20,000 per battery; and, if so, what explanation is there for this discrepancy in cost; and why is not the real article supplied, seeing Parliament has voted £700,000 for this purpose.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): All the field batteries in the Regular Army armed with guns have been supplied with 18-pounder Q.F. guns of the latest pattern; a few batteries have not yet received the full equipment of six guns, but it will shortly be completed. There is no intention of arming the Royal Field Artillery with any other gun than that referred to above, and full provision has been made for equipping all the batteries.

Military Drill in Schools.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War is he aware that compulsory military drill exists in many public and preparatory schools; is public money to be paid, under the Bill now passing through the House, for this compulsory military training, or will he exempt from those provisions of the Bill which propose to establish and assist rifle clubs, such clubs, corps, and battalions as have in them the element of compulsion.

MR. HALDANE: The Question put by my hon. friend is similar in purport to one put by him on the 9th instant. The reply which I gave on that date would apparently need no amplification. The substance of that reply was that the Government has not the least intention of introducing compulsion anywhere or of granting money with that end in view. With the internal discipline of private schools, whether as regards drill or football, or any other kind of exercise, the Government, of course, cannot intermeddle.

MR. BYLES: Is the Government paying money to private schools where compulsion obtains?

MR. HALDANE: We are not paying any money.

Territorial Force and the Compensation Act.

MR. RATCLIFF (Staffordshire, Burton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if men serving in the Territorial Forces, ordinarily in civil employment, will be included in the Compensation Act, 1906, in cases of accidents when such men are employed in marking on rifle ranges, and if the funds of the county associations will be liable for payment of compensation under the Act; and if such is the case, will he consider the advisability of refunding the amounts of any claims awarded under the Act.

MR. HALDANE: The question of the application of the Compensation Act, 1906, to the cases alluded to is now being carefully considered.

Tinned Meats for the Troops.

MR. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what instructions, if any, have recently been issued by the War Office as to the supply of American corned beef or other tinned meats to the British Army.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a Report has been sent from the War Office to officers commanding depots, stations, or establishments, stating that the American tinned meats supplied to the Army are prepared from carefully selected cattle in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and under good sanitary conditions, or in any other way guaranteeing the quality of American tinned meats.

MR. HALDANE: No particular instructions have recently been issued with regard to the supply of American canned meats. But, as regards such meat now being issued to the troops, the general officer commanding-in-chief, Aldershot, was informed that the establishments in which this meat was prepared had been carefully inspected by officers specially sent to America for the purpose, and that the Army Council, in view of the reports of these officers, were of opinion that the quality and preparation of this food were in every way satisfactory.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxii., 79.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.) asked whether, in consequence of the frequent cases of ptomaine poisoning from eating tinned meat, the right hon. Gentleman would give instructions that fresh meat should be obtained wherever practicable.

Mr. HALDANE: We do give fresh meat in the majority of cases, but in war time tinned meat has to be supplied, and consequently we are making careful arrangements.

Mr. COURTHOPE: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of avoiding the expense of sending out British officers to make inspections in America by providing the British Army with British meat?

Mr. HALDANE said a great deal of British meat was used, and it had every chance; but they were not able to give it on all occasions.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that during the late war in South Africa large quantities of British tinned meat, to the extent of £80,000 or £100,000, had to be destroyed, because it was proved to be rotten?

[No Answer was returned.]

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware there is an adequate supply of fresh meat in the North of Ireland?

[No Answer was returned.]

Old War Office.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War to what use it is intended to put the old War Office headquarters buildings.

Mr. HALDANE: This is not a matter for my Department, but I may refer the hon. Member to the reply given to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for the Barkston Ash Division on the 23rd ultimo.[†]

Roscrea Barracks.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the disused military barracks at Roscrea were sold at the auction which was to be held on the 17th instant; and, if not, whether it is intended to invite tenders for the buildings.

Mr. HALDANE: The Answer to the first part of this Question is in the negative. As regards the second, I may say that any offers to purchase the buildings and land will be considered.

Factory Life in Bombay.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received the Report of Sir Hamilton Smith regarding his inquiry into the hours of labour and conditions of factory life in Bombay; and, if so, will such Report be laid upon the Table of the House.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.): The Secretary of State has received informally from the Viceroy an advance copy of the Report. It will be published at a very early date by the Government of India, to whom it was made. I shall take steps to lay copies upon the Table of the House.

Illegal Church Practices in India.

Sir J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in a charge delivered in a recent visitation of his diocese the Bishop of Bombay has drawn public attention to the practice of the reservation of the Holy Sacrament for adoration, or of the adoration of the Blessed Virgin, or children's Eucharists, or any rites or ceremonies which have been pronounced by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to be contrary to the law of the Church of England; and will he say whether any of such practices have occurred in churches belonging to the Government of India, or supported out of the public revenues, or have been followed by chaplains or others under the superintendence, direction, and control of the Governor-General of India in Council.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clxxii., 1570.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I have seen the charge delivered by the Bishop of Bombay, but I am not aware whether any of the practices prohibited in it had been customary in churches served by Government chaplains or supported out of public revenues. The Bishops in India have the authority required to deal with them wherever they prevail.

Ceylon Opium Trade.

Sir J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the result of the inquiry made by the Acting Colonial Secretary of Ceylon in regard to the licences or rents paid for the sale of opium; and whether the system of high licensing has now been adopted, and with what results to the Colonial revenue and the consumption of opium by the people of Ceylon.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State has received no official information on the subject of the first Question. During the last two years I understand the imports of opium into Ceylon have decreased and the estimated receipts from opium licences have increased.

Sir J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether at the end of last century there were no licensed opium shops in the northern parts of Ceylon nor in the towns of Jaffina, Manaar, and Trincomalee; and whether the system of licensing shops for the sale of opium has lately been introduced there.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has not received any information on the subject.

Sir J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that at a recent meeting of the Ceylon Legislative Council most of the non-official members voted in favour of a resolution for closing all the licensed opium shops and confining the sale of opium to medical dispensaries, on the ground that there are practically no Chinese residents in Ceylon; and whether these proposals are approved by the Government of Ceylon.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has not received any communication from the governor on the subject, but his attention shall be directed to the point raised by my hon. friend.

German Canadian Mail Service.

*Captain FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information to the effect that, as soon as the pending tariff negotiations between Germany and Canada take a satisfactory course, the Hamburg-American shipping line intends to start a weekly service to Canada.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have no information on this subject.

Forced Labour in Fiji.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Report of the Government of Fiji on forced labour in the group of islands has now been received by the Colonial Office; and, if so, when the Report will be published.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Report as to the alleged employment of forced labour in Fiji has been received from the Governor, and will be laid before Parliament if the hon. Member desires.

The Transvaal Loan.

Sir F. BANBURY (City of London): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what portion of the £35,000,000 Transvaal Loan has been exclusively devoted to the British population and what portion exclusively to the Boer population; and what are the purposes for which the further loan proposed to be guaranteed by His Majesty's Government is destined.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The various headings of the loan were given in reply to a Question by the hon. Member on 16th May,† but I do not think that it is possible to make the division suggested in the first part of the Question. I cannot at present add anything with regard to the new loan to my Answer to a Question on the subject on 9th May.‡

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1080-2.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 355.

SIR F. BANBURY: May I ask why the right hon. Gentleman cannot answer my Question and specify the different headings which were not specified in his reply to my former Question?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have already said I do not think it possible to make the division suggested in the first part of the Question with regard to the allocation of the moneys included in the £35,0000,000 loan. With regard to the £5,000,000 I have said I cannot add anything to what has been already stated.

SIR F. BANBURY: But is not the right hon. Gentleman in possession of information as to the exact way in which this £35,000,000 was applied, and if so, why not give it?

MR. CHURCHILL: Very full accounts are of course preserved of the expenditure of the £35,000,000 loan, an expenditure for which the present Government is in no degree responsible, but I am imformed it would be very difficult to pick out exactly what sums were spent upon Boers and what sums on British, out of that great sum of money. Although it is difficult, I am not sure if it were easy it would be very desirable.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): May I ask whether these accounts do not show that certain sums were paid for the repatriation of Boer farmers, for restocking farms, for concentration camps, and for other purposes, and what is the objection to giving the information which has been asked for, and which in my opinion is perfectly available?

MR. CHURCHILL: As I have said, they are not matters of which we have had cognisance during our term of office. I understand that very full information as to the expenditure of the £35,000,000 loan has already been laid before Parliament, and if that is not the case it is the right hon. Gentleman who is to blame and not we. With regard to the special classification he now recommends us to make, I have said it would be difficult and I think undesirable.

SIR F. BANBURY: I will repeat my Question this day week in order to give the right hon. Gentleman time to obtain the information. I do not care which side is responsible.

MR. CHURCHILL: When the hon. Gentleman repeats his Question I shall only be able to repeat my Answer.

MR. CROOKS: Now that there is a Transvaal Government is there any distinction of population: are they not all British subjects?

[No Answer was given.]

The Rand Riots.

MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince) asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies a Question of which he had given him private notice, namely, whether he could now state to the House what were the nature and extent of the disturbances, if any, to suppress which British soldiers had been employed on the Rand; whether the Transvaal authorities had themselves taken any steps to prevent or suppress the disorder, and whether the High Commissioner despatched the military before the ordinary means of preserving order had proved inadequate?

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State for the Colonies has to-day received the following telegram from the Governor of the Transvaal:—"May 29.—Rand strike all quiet along Reef now. Miners waiting for result of ballot of engine-drivers, which will not be declared till Friday. Evidence furnished to Attorney-General was conclusive as to necessity of calling out military. You must remember the Reef is fifty miles long, and that when every town of Transvaal has been denuded of police, there were under 600 available to deal with conditions created by strike along whole Reef. It was absolutely necessary to employ either Volunteers or Regulars. It was most inadvisable to employ Volunteers, partly because many of the Volunteers are miners, and partly because Volunteers necessarily have not the discipline to stand up and be stoned without individually retaliating. I fear that if Volunteers had been used there would already have been bloodshed. Following are instances of evidences of acts of violence. On 15th May party of Afrikanders going to mine attacked by strikers, and they and police severely stoned. Wagon containing effects and bedding of these men burnt. Constant assaults on individual men who had either refused to strike or had taken place of strikers. At one time life of a miner named Botha, who had been badly injured, was despaired of, but I am glad to say that it is now believed he will recover. On 22nd May complete destruction of fencing round shafts of the Robinson Mine. On 23rd May, at Robinson Deep, strikers broke down fences round head gear, and broke into the quarters of the miners who had not joined strike, and absolutely wrecked them. The small body of police who were there were overpowered, and some of them seriously injured by the blows which they received. On 24th May there would have been a very serious affair at the Consolidated Langlaagte Mine had it not been for the fact that soldiers arrived in nick of time. Commissioner of Police, who was present, described attitude of strikers to have been most violent. They were armed with pick handles and other such weapons, and openly talked of showing violence against the police if they took any decisive action, and declared that they would tear the men working on the mine to pieces if they would not go on strike. One of the foremost men drew revolver. Police just held mob, but only just, till the cavalry appeared. The cavalry and police together were able to drive away and disperse mob without injuring any one. Commissioner of Police reports that in respect of this mob there was a large number of men who had been drinking heavily, and also that there was a large number of foreigners belonging to a distinctly dangerous class. Attorney-General has not trusted only to the reports of police, but he has himself been amongst the mines on these occasions, and could judge for himself what the temper of the strikers was, and the risk that was being run."

Turkish Customs.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he expects to be able to present the Papers relating to the recent negotiations for the increase in the Turkish customs duties; when will there be an opportunity of discussing them; and at what date the new duties are to come into force.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I hope to lay Papers by the end of next week, and they can of course be discussed on the usual opportunities. The increased duties will come into force after 25th June.

MR. LYNCH: In view of the protracted negotiations will the right hon. Baronet see that reasonable time is given for considering the Papers before the Foreign Office Vote is discussed?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can make no statement as to the course of business, but I will represent to the Prime Minister the desire of the hon. Member.

Persia.

MR. LYNCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information concerning the present state of affairs in Persia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: A recent telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran reports that the situation in the provinces, which has been somewhat unsettled, is now better, and that all is quiet in the south. A popular demonstration occurred on the 25th instant at Tehran, but steps were taken to allay the excitement, which subsided.

MR. LYNCH: Is it the case that the brother of the Shah is raising troops in the South, and is marching on the capital?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Congo Free State.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information as to the approximate number of officers, non-commissioned officers, regular and irregular armed forces, in the service of the Congo Free State.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can only refer the hon. Member to such statements as have been published in the *Almanac de Gotha*; it is impossibie to give official information on such questions beyond what is given by the State concerned.

British Subjects and Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment in the United States.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the most-favoured-nation treatment enables British subjects to claim the same advantages in regard to Treasury and consular regulations for their exports to the United States of America as are accorded to Germany or other nations.

Sir EDWARD GREY: As I stated in reply to a Question on the 23rd instant, we understand that the concessions in respect of these matters will be for the benefit of all nations.

Agricultural Education.

*Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the amount to be expended in the United Kingdom for 1907–8 in respect of agricultural and dairy education is £85,140, and that of this sum the percentage to England is 14 per cent., to Scotland 9 per cent., and to Ireland 77 per cent., and that their populations are to that of the United Kingdom as 78, 11, and 11 to 100, he will see his way next year to provide a sum which shall place England and Scotland in a position as favourable as that of Ireland.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fife, E.): No, Sir; I am not aware of any reason for making the change suggested.

*Mr. ASHLEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that England and Scotland only receive 23 per cent. of the total money expended, whereas their proportion of the agricultural population is 61 per cent.?

Mr. ASQUITH: That may be so, but it is not the province of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to suggest to heads of other Departments that they should make expenditure of public money for which they have not asked.

*Mr. ASHLEY: May I ask whether the Board of Agriculture have not repeatedly pressed for a larger grant of money?

Mr. ASQUITH: Not that I am aware of.

Tobacco.

Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if, before presenting to the House another Budget, he will take into consideration the desirability of increasing the amount of moisture allowed to be present in low-priced tobaccos, seeing that under present conditions small manufacturers are being driven out of the trade by syndicates who rely only upon high priced and fancy tobaccos for their profits.

Mr. ASQUITH: The present legal limit of moisture in tobacco was settled as recently as 1904 by the Act 4, Edward VII., Chapter 7, Section 3 (2), and, as at present advised, I am strongly of opinion that, quite apart from the unsettlement caused to trade by frequent alterations, it would be undesirable, in the interests both of consumers and of the Exchequer, to increase it.

Female Inebriates.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that more than half the women now under detention in Holloway Prison could have been dealt with under the Inebriates Acts and sent to reformatories; and whether, in these circumstances, he will consider the advisability of calling the attention of magistrates to the provisions of the Inebriates Acts.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): I am aware that a good many women in Holloway Prison have qualified for committal to an inebriate reformatory. It is, of course, for the Court to decide what is the best way of dealing with each case; but I have specially drawn the attention of magistrates to the working of the reformatory system, and have recently taken steps to ensure metropolitan Courts being made acquainted with a prisoner's previous convictions of drunkenness. I do not see that I can with advantage take any further action at present, but I think it would be well if more use were made of the powers given by the Inebriates Act.

Time Cribbing.

MR. SHACKLETON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what number of towns in Lancashire and Cheshire have agreed to allow police to assist in the checking of time cribbing, and which are the towns that have so agreed.

MR. GLADSTONE: Four local authorities have now agreed to allow the police to assist in the checking of time cribbing, namely, Oldham, Accrington, Rochdale, and Hyde. I am in hopes that one or two others will also give their consent.

Dock Regulations.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any prosecutions have been taken in respect to the 4,563 irregularities, under the dock regulations made in October 1904, discovered during the year 1906 by dock inspectors; and, if so, with what results.

MR. GLADSTONE: Twenty-eight prosecutions were taken, of which one was withdrawn, one dismissed, and the rest resulted in convictions. Detailed information with regard to the irregularities and the action taken by the inspectors will appear in the forthcoming Annual Report of the Chief Inspector.

Aliens.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many aliens were excluded last year under the Aliens Act of 1905, and at what cost.

MR. GLADSTONE: Four hundred and ninety-three aliens were refused leave to land in 1906. The actual cost of such refusals cannot be given, but the whole of the operations of the Act were covered, as I stated on 14th February last in answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme, by the sum of £11,800. This figure of 493 only relates to exclusion by immigration authorities, and has no reference to the working of the Act as regards returned transmigrants and expulsions.

Russian Delegates in London.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Inspector McCarthy, of Scotland Yard, was instructed to prepare a list of the names of the Russian delegates attending the Russian Conference recently held in London.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Answer is in the negative.

MR. THORNE: Has the attention of the right hon. Gentleman been drawn to the remarkable statement in a paper the other day that the Inspector had told the correspondent of the *Daily News* that he was instructed to prepare a list of the Russian delegates attending the Conference?

MR. GLADSTONE: I have stated what is the fact.

Prisoners' Weights.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether prisoners are weighed on entering prison with no clothes on and are weighed when leaving prison fully dressed; and, if this is the case, will he, in the interest of accurate statistics, see that in future prisoners are weighed on entering and leaving prison similarly attired.

MR. GLADSTONE: Prisoners are weighed both on reception and on discharge in the ordinary prison dress without cap or shoes.

Emigration of Aliens.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why were no figures, showing the emigration of aliens, given in the recently issued Report of the first year's working of the Aliens Act; is it intended to issue the Annual Report on emigration and immigration in continuation of similar previous Reports; whether representations as to the working of the Immigration Boards, set up by the Aliens Act, have been made to the Home Office by members of the boards themselves and by certain organisations; and why there is no information on the subject in the Report of the first year's working of the Act.

Mr. GLADSTONE: My hon. friend refers to two separate sets of statistics—those obtained last year for the first time under the Aliens Act of 1905, and those previously obtained under an Act repealed in 1905, which had until last year been included in the Annual Report of the Board of Trade on Emigration and Immigration. On page 9 of the Report under the Aliens Act, which I have presented to Parliament, the matter of alien passenger traffic outwards from the United Kingdom is dealt with, and I would refer the hon. Member thereto. He will find that there are some figures. As to the Board of Trade's Report, I understand that it will be continued—subject to the omission of the information which is now to be given in the Report under the Aliens Act—and that the Volume for 1906 is in the press. As regards the last two paragraphs of the question, the Report under the Aliens Act is a Report made by the Inspector under the Act to me as head of the Home Department, and naturally does not treat of any representations which may have been made to me and dealt with by me in that capacity.

Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Assistant Under Secretary of State was first appointed at a salary of £1,000 per annum; what are the functions and duties of the position; and why the salary appears on the Estimates this year for the first time.

Mr. GLADSTONE: A third Assistant Under-Secretary of State was appointed on the 2nd of May, 1906. His chief functions are to assist in the consideration of petitions in criminal cases, and in administering the Aliens Act. The salary appears on the Estimates for this year for the first time because the creation of the post was not sanctioned until after the Estimates for 1906-7 had been settled and published.

The Edalji Case.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, having regard to all the circumstances of the Edalji case, including the anonymous letters, the advisers of the Government will consider the advisability of reconsidering the sentence.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have advised the grant of a free pardon. No further interference with the sentence is within the power of the Government.

Mr. ASHLEY: Does the right hon. Gentleman consider this man to be innocent?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I hardly think that is a proper Question to ask me. It is on a matter of opinion.

Mr. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long Edalji was detained in prison, what character he bore during his incarceration, how long he was kept under surveillance after his release, and whether the surveillance was of such a character as to be prejudical to his professional prospects.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Mr. Edalji was in prison for three years after his conviction. His prison character was good. From his release in October last until the grant of a free pardon a few days ago he was under police supervision, but he was allowed to report by letter instead of personally, and there was no interference of any sort on the part of police that could be prejudical to him.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: May I ask if a free pardon means a free pardon, and whether, in the opinion of the Home Office, this gentleman is innocent or guilty?

Mr. GLADSTONE: Perhaps the hon. Member will put a Question on the Paper if he wishes a full and detailed Answer.

Mr. MOORE: Will the course which the Government have taken in regard to Mr. Edalji enable the Lord Chancellor to reinstate him as a solicitor.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I do not know that the Lord Chancellor has anything to do with it.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Will this free pardon entitle Mr. Edalji to be readmitted to the roll of solicitors?

MR. GLADSTONE: That does not come within my province.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will appoint a committee with the object of further considering the question of the authorship of the anonymous letters in the Edalji case; and whether the committee which has reported upon the matter had specific instructions to conduct an independent inquiry into the authorship of the letters or did conduct such an inquiry.

MR. GLADSTONE: I asked Sir Arthur Wilson and his colleagues to examine the whole of the material in the possession of the Home Office and give me their opinion on the case. In their Report they say: "We have ourselves carefully examined the letters and compared them with the admitted handwriting of Edalji." I do not propose to appoint any such committee as the hon. Member suggests.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) asked whether, in view of the great similarity between this case and that of Sergeant Sheridan, the right hon. Gentleman would follow the precedent of the Irish case and have the police witnesses examined.

[No Answer was returned.]

Wage Statistics.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the number of workpeople who had their wages increased and reduced for the year 1906; and what was the computed amount of changes of weekly wages recorded.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): About 1,100,000 workpeople were reported to the Board of Trade as being affected by changes in rates of wages in 1906, viz., 1,083,000 by increases and 17,000 by reductions. The net result of all the changes was a rise in the weekly wages of these workpeople of about £60,000.

Irish Trainmen's Hours.

MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the number of hours worked by trainmen on the Midland Great Western Railway (Ireland); and whether the company have given any and, if any, what explanation why men were kept on duty on goods trains on the 16th and 17th of the present month for a period of over thirty-four hours, with a less interval than eight hours for rest.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Inquiry is being made as to the hours of work to which the hon. Member calls attention, and I will inform him of the result.

Lodging Accommodation for Irish Railway Servants.

MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the unhealthy conditions of the lodging accommodation provided by the Midland and Great Western Railway Company (Ireland) for their engine drivers and firemen at some of the stations where they are lodged away from home; is he aware that, in the case of Galway, three different sets of men have to sleep in and use the same room and hammocks every twenty-four hours; can he say what inspection, if any, these dormitories are subject to; and what steps, if any, he proposes to take to ensure that such places controlled by the company are kept in a healthy and good sanitary condition.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: This matter is not one within the jurisdiction of the Board of Trade, but I will draw the attention of the railway company to the hon. Member's Question.

Sugar Machinery Exports.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can inform the House what were the amounts and value of the machinery for sugar manufacture exported from the United Kingdom during the years 1898 to 1902 inclusive, and during the years 1903 to 1907 inclusive; and, if he can say what were the figures for such exports to the British West Indies for the same periods.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am unable to give the information asked for as no separate record is kept by the Customs Department of the exports of machinery for sugar manufacture. As I informed the hon. Member for Darlington on the 23rd instant, the question of the revision of the classification of machinery in the official trade accounts will be considered by a Departmental Committee during the autumn.

Unemployed Bill.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when he will introduce the Unemployed Bill promised by His Majesty's Government.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): It was proposed last year to introduce a Bill on this subject, but, for reasons which I explained to the House, the proposal was not proceeded with. I do not contemplate the introduction of a Bill at the present time.

West Ham Scandals.

MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, as Mr. Justice Jelf considered it his duty to call public attention to what he described as a very extraordinary state of things, he proposes to make any further inquiries into the circumstances under which Mr. W. G. Ackworth, a manager of the London and Provincial Bank, was appointed treasurer to the West Ham Guardians in 1903, and into the fact that Mr. Ackworth, who admitted having paid nearly £100 in respect of his election and that the money had been all refunded to him by the head office of the bank, was still manager of his branch at an increased salary.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have informed the West Ham Guardians that I shall consider the position of those officers whose conduct came under notice at the recent trial, and that I have instructed one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Local Government Board to report to me on the subject. One of the cases to be considered is that of the treasurer. I can only deal with it so far as his position as treasurer is concerned. I have no jurisdiction with regard to him as manager of the bank.

SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD (Lincolnshire, Brigg): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was at the time a director of the bank?

MR. JOHN BURNS: No, Sir; and if I had been it would not have affected my action at all.

Post Offices on Licensed Premises.

MR. BOULTON (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if, under the rules and regulations of the Post Office, the business of a district or branch post office may be carried on in licensed premises; and, if so, will he take steps to separate the business of all branch or district post offices from such licensed premises in such a way that the business of the post office can be conducted out of sight of the licensed trade, and that distinct and separate entrances may be provided to the branch or district post offices and that part of the premises where intoxicating liquors are sold.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): As I have before stated when questioned on this subject by hon. Members, it is the rule that sub-postmasters should not be persons licensed for the sale of drink; and it is only when no other arrangement is practicable that exceptions to the rule are allowed. There are only thirty-three post offices in the United Kingdom in which the Post Office business is not separated from that relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors. Such an arrangement is not sanctioned except where no other is practicable.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): May we take it that no exception to the general rule that licensed premises should not be used for post offices will be made when other suitable premises can be found?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: That is so.

Stoke-on-Trent Post Office.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether final arrangements have been made with the North

Staffordshire Railway Company for the erection of the proposed new general post office at Stoke-on-Trent; whether there are any special reasons for the delay of over ten years since the proposal took definite shape; have the plans and estimates been arranged, or are there still outstanding questions to be settled; and whether, in case of still further dilatory proceedings by the railway company, he will consider the advisability of scheduling the land in the next Sites Bill with a view to the building being put immediately in hand by his own Department.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The site of the present post office belongs to the railway company, and the fact that the company required the site for their own use was first made known to the Department in November, 1902. The post office must be close to the station, and the orginal proposal was for a new post office to be built by the Department on ground belonging to the railway company. Plans for this scheme were first sent to the company in October, 1903; but the company demurred to the proposals, and after considerable correspondence it was at length agreed that the railway company should build the premises themselves, and let them to the Department. Plans were drawn up, and in January last the scheme was approved by the Treasury. The draft agreement for lease has been settled, and specifications for the building are now being prepared by the company. I have represented to them how important it is that the office should be completed as rapidly as possible.

Norwich Post Office Employes' Grievances.

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that at Norwich there are four men who have been assistant postmen for over four years; that there are also a number of telegraph messengers some of whom are about twenty years of age and are regularly employed, with very short intervals, on full-time postmen's duties, and who, by not being given assistant postmen's certificates, are rendered ineligible for established appointments; whether he is also aware that telegraph messengers of seventeen years of age are sometimes employed on night duties contrary to regulation; that, when the assistant postmen desired to petition the surveyor for appointments, they were persuaded to withdraw their appeal by the inspector saying that to do so would prejudice the position of the telegraph messengers; and whether, seeing that the telegraph messengers referred to are employed doing postmen's work at the rate of 4d. an hour, and that this system has been in existence for some years, he will take steps to give these assistant postmen and telegraph messengers appointments at an early date.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will make inquiry concerning this matter and communicate with the hon. Member.

Postage of Flowers from Switzerland.

MR. BRIGG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will inquire into the circumstances which preclude parcels of flowers being sent by post from Switzerland to England, which parcels can be sent to any other European country.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Flowers can be sent to this country from Switzerland either by letter post or by parcel post. On and after 1st October next they will also be admissible by sample post, provided that they have no saleable value and are not sent for a commercial purpose.

South Kensington College of Science Charter.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the fact that the proposed Charter for the Imperial College of Science at South Kensington contains a special provision retaining the name and the associateship of the Royal School of Mines, it is intended also to retain the title and the associateship of the Royal College of Science.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I do not think the "Associateship of the Royal School of Mines" affords an analogy in this connection. Specialised courses in mining and metallurgy, for which the name "Royal School of Mines" is sufficiently appropriate, will certainly form one of the departments of the work of the Imperial College, and provision can therefore be made in the Charter for this and for the retention of the corresponding associateship, before the governing body is established. It is difficult, however, to anticipate whether there will be any department to which the name "College of Science" or "School of Science" will be equally applicable, and it is desirable that the governing body, when established, should have an opportunity of considering this question, which is bound up with other questions of organisation which it will rest with them to decide. Moreover, the name chosen for the new institution, viz., the Imperial College of Science and Technology, may make the continued use of the comprehensive term "Science" inappropriate as a distinctive term for use in the name of any particular department.

MR. LONSDALE: What steps have been taken to preserve existing rights?

MR. McKENNA: I think the hon. Gentleman has not fully appreciated my answer.

Secondary School Regulations.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is in a position to state when the new regulations of the secondary schools under the Board of Education will be issued; whether all applications must still be sent in at least one month before the school year commences; whether the school year commences 1st August; and, if so, whether, as only one month remains for making the applications, he will consider the advisability of extending the period in which they can be made.

MR. McKENNA: I hope the new regulations will be issued early next month, but I am not yet in a position to fix the date. The present regulations require that applications should be sent in not one month before the school year commences, but one month before the school session commences, which is generally towards the end of September. The possibility of making a change in this regulation is under consideration.

West Ham Education Dispute.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if his attention has been called to a dispute between the West Ham educational authorities and their teachers, which has caused the resignation of a very large number of teachers, and, owing to the educational authority not being able to obtain a sufficient number of teachers to fill the vacancies, the teachers have in many instances had their classes increased to 100 children or more; and whether he intends to take any action in the matter.

MR. McKENNA: I understand that a certain number of teachers have left the service of the local education authority. His Majesty's Inspector informs me that, so far as regards schools he has visited in the last week or two, he is not aware of any case where a class habitually consists of as many as 100 children.

Stoke-on-Trent Catholic Schools.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the Stoke-on-Trent Catholic Schools, where the correspondent has failed to call a meeting of managers for more than six months, whilst he sends in accounts and recommendations to the education committee which have never been before the managers; and whether he will call attention to this breach of regulations.

MR. McKENNA: I am causing inquiries to be made into this case, and I will let my hon. friend know the result.

West Ham Schools — Alleged Overcrowding.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the overcrowding at a number of West Ham schools, viz., Carpenters Road Girls' School: class-room accommodation, 170; number on roll, 224; Drew Road Boys' School: class accommodation, seventy; number on roll, 105; Hermit Road Girls' School: class accommodation, sixty; number on roll, 105; Holborn Road Boys' School: class accommodation, sixty; number on roll, 118; S. Hallsville Girls' School: class accommodation, sixty-two; number on roll, 102; St. Paul's Girls' School: class accommodation, 125; number on roll, 154; Water Lane Boys' School: class accommodation, sixty;

number on roll, 101; and whether he proposes to take any, and, if any, what, action in the matter.

Mr. McKENNA: Only one of the schools mentioned has recently been visited by His Majesty's inspector, viz. the Water Lane Boys' School, where there were 472 children present, formed into nine classes. The staff consists of nine certificated teachers. I am not aware of any requirements of the Code having been broken. I hope His Majesty's inspector will be able to visit the other schools very shortly.

New Schools.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he will introduce the Bill to authorise the expenditure of public money upon the creation of new public elementary schools.

Mr. McKENNA: I propose to ask Parliament in the Appropriation Bill to authorise this expenditure, but I cannot say upon what date that Bill will be introduced.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Does not that involve the repealing of a clause in the Act of 1870 which forbids the payment of public funds for erecting school buildings?

Mr. McKENNA: No, it does not involve a general repeal of the clause in the Act of 1870, but it will obviously lead to a repeal for the expenditure during the current year.

Parliament Buildings—Old Oak Panelling.

Mr. MYER: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been drawn to the damage which has been done to the old oak panelling and decorations in one of the dining-rooms in the process of restoration; and if, in any further work to be executed, he will take precautions to preserve the natural richness of the oak acquired by age, and also maintain the general decorative character of the original design of the interior of the House.

*The FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale): No damage or restoration has been done to the oak panelling of the dining-room. The oak has never acquired any natural richness by age. It was originally stained and then varnished. The varnish has been removed in order to allow the oak to acquire the fine tone which arises from age and waxing. There has been no interference with the decorative character of the original design of the interior of the House. Some old and dirty flock papers have been removed or replaced with the general approval of those best qualified to judge of such matters.

Mr. MYER: Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to scrape the oak work of this Chamber and whitewash the ceiling, or does he regard the House as national property?

*Mr. HARCOURT: I regard the House as national property, and I have not in the past, and I do not intend in the future, to scrape any of the oak.

Small Holdings Bill.

Mr. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will lay upon the Table a statement showing the various provisions and enactments adapted in and modified by the Small Holdings and Allotment Bill, similar to those provided in connection with the Territorial Forces and other Bills.

Mr. HARCOURT: I will consider whether it is desirable or necessary to do this—which will, of course, entail cost—but if it is desirable I will see that it is done.

Norwich Licences.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that seventeen licences referred by the Licensing Bench of the city of Norwich to the Inland Revenue authorities for compensation on 9th August last have not yet been reported upon; and whether he can take steps to expedite the award.

Mr. McKENNA (for Mr. Runciman): I hope that a decision on these cases will be arrived at in a few days.

Land Tax Commissioners.

Mr. HENRY (Shropshire, Wellington): I beg to ask the Secretary to the

Treasury if he will take steps to abolish or modify the existing property qualification at present necessary for the position of Income Tax Commissioners, in order that the Land Tax Commissioners may have a more extended choice in making these appointments.

MR. McKENNA (for Mr. RUNCIMAN): Some qualification for Income Tax Commissioners is clearly necessary, as it would not be desirable, for instance, that persons who do not themselves contribute to Income Tax should be made eligible. I am not aware, however, that the existing qualification is a cause of difficulty in securing a satisfactory body of Commissioners.

Holme Lacy Charities.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Elland Division of Yorkshire, as representing the Charity Commissioners, when the inquiry into the various charities connected with Holme Lacy, promised by the Commissioners in October last, and again in the early part of April of this year, will be held.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): The inquiry has been fixed for the 3rd or 4th of July, as the chairman of the parish council may arrange.

Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture (Ireland) when the Report of the proceedings of the Department during 1906 will be presented.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR IRELAND (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): The sixth annual Report of the Department, which covers the greater part of 1906, has now been submitted to the Lord-Lieutenant, and will be presented to Parliament in a day or two.

Irish Rates Return.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the Return standing in the name of the Member for Mid Armagh on the Paper to-day.†

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I cannot see that any useful purpose would be served by giving the Return in Question. I am not aware of any precedent for inquiring as to the amount of rates which may be paid by members of local bodies or any other class.

Roscommon Disturbances.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a conflict which occurred on 13th May at Four Mile House, near Roscommon, between the police and a crowd who assembled to drive the cattle of a farmer, named Owens, off his land, when the police were stoned and the head constable was injured; were any arrests made or have any persons been prosecuted; and, if so, is it proposed to try them in county Roscommon?

MR. BIRRELL: On the evening of the 13th May a crowd which had assembled near a farm occupied by Mr. Owen was dispersed by the police. No stones were thrown at this time, but subsequently when some of the police were returning from duty, stones were thrown at them at a place a mile from the scene of the disturbance. The head constable was slightly injured by a stone. Owing to the darkness the police were unable to identify the offenders, and consequently no arrests were made.

Irish Council Bill.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, under the Irish Council Bill, the Lord-Lieutenant, as President of the Local Government Board (Clause 20, Subsection 5), will be controlled by the council under Clause 2 (1) and (2); and whether, as chief of the Executive Government, he will have the power (Clause 3 (2)) to annul or reserve any Resolution submitted to him concerning the action to be taken by the Local Government Board under the direction of the council.

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† Return giving the names and addresses of each member of all Rural and Urban District Councils, Boards of Guardians, and County Councils in Ireland, with the amount of county rates paid by each member of those Boards.

MR. BIRRELL: The Lord-Lieutenant will not, under the Irish Council Bill, become President of the Local Government Board, and therefore the first part of the Question does not arise. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Additional Police in Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will indicate the districts in Ireland in which additional forces of constabulary are employed, stating the names of districts, counties in which situated, total number of additional police employed, and the circumstances under which, in the case of each such district, it was considered necessary to supplement the ordinary police establishment.

MR. BIRRELL: I will furnish with to-night's Votes a statement giving the information for which the right hon. Gentleman asks.†

Extra Police in Roscommon.

MR. WALTER LONG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the number of constabulary stations throughout Ireland from which men have been withdrawn to the extent, respectively, of one, two, three men, and upwards, for the purpose of augmenting the ordinary police establishment of districts which are at present in a state of disturbance; what is the normal strength of the force at the constabulary depot in Dublin; to what extent has such force been depleted owing to the necessity that has arisen of drafting additional men into disturbed districts; and whether there are any trained men now serving at the depot whose services are available for duty elsewhere should the occasion for such employment arise.

MR. BIRRELL: Fifty men have been withdrawn from other counties for the purpose of augmenting the ordinary police force of the county Roscommon. These men have been taken from forty-five stations in five counties. One man was withdrawn from each of forty stations, and two men from each of five stations. The normal strength of the Reserve Force at the depot is 400 men, beside officers and head constables. The number of the reserve at present serving in counties is 228, leaving a balance still available for duty in the country. The men attached to the reserve are all trained men.

United Irish League and Grazing Farm Disputes.

MR. WALTER LONG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what are the results, as disclosed by recent constabulary reports, of the action of the United Irish League in opposing the letting and the stocking respectively of grazing farms in Ireland under the heads of acreage of eleven months farms unlet owing to United Irish League influence, and acreage of farms unstocked or partly stocked owing to United Irish League influence, respectively; and what were the similar results as shown by the constabulary reports in May of last year.

MR. BIRRELL: The constabulary reports upon this matter for the present year have not yet been completed, but in any case it would not be possible to publish the information asked for. The reports are, as the right hon. Gentleman is aware, of a confidential nature, and much of the information contained in them must necessarily, in the nature of the case, be conjectural.

Carrick-on-Shannon Outrage.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the cattle of Mr. C. C. B. Whyte, Carrick-on-Shannon, were on the 18th May driven off his lands and scattered some miles away over the country, and will he say if the farm is guarded by police; and whether seeing that a similar outrage was committed on the same day at Ballina, county Mayo, in reference to the cattle of a man named Kelly, he will say if any person has been arrested for either offence.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that it is not the fact that Mr. Whyte's cattle were driven off his lands. On the night of the 18th instant a dealer placed some cattle on an unfenced plot belonging to Mr. Whyte, and these wandered away during the night. In the Mayo case referred to, it is not clear whether the cattle wandered or were driven off. No one was seen driving the cattle away, and consequently no one has been arrested.

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† See Col. 49.

Rathkeale Union.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to allegations of corruption in the administration of the Rathkeale Union; whether he is aware that at a recent meeting of the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale a motion asking the Local Government Board (Ireland) to dissolve the present board and to appoint paid guardians, in order to put a stop to the alleged corruption, was only lost by two votes, thirteen voting for and fifteen against; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: My attention has been called to this matter. The Local Government Board can only dissolve a board of guardians and appoint paid officers when the guardians have been guilty of default in the discharge of their duties under the Poor Law Acts. In the case in question the guardians were acting in their capacity as rural district councillors, and the alleged irregularities occurred in connection with the administration of the Labourers Acts and not of the Poor Law Acts.

Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P., and the Chief Secretary.

LORD BALCARRES: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that, in the course of the hearing of a case dealing with unlawful assembly at Athenry on 10th May, Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P., of Loughrea, stated that they had it from the Chief Secretary that they ought to agitate, and that it was unfair to condemn men for doing what they were told to do by the Chief Secretary; what steps he has taken with regard to this statement; and whether the Athenry defendants have now been brought before the resident magistrate and returned for trial.

MR. BIRRELL: It appears from the newspapers that during the hearing of the case referred to Mr. Kelly made a statement to the effect mentioned in the Question. My attention was not called to the statement until the noble Lord gave notice of the Question, and it did not then appear to me that the statement required any serious notice on my part. I found, however, that the matter had already been brought to the notice of the Lord Chancellor, who has decided that his interference is not called for. There were two cases of unlawful assembly for hearing at Athenry on 10th May. These cases were disposed of by the Bench, which included two resident magistrates, at Athenry Petty Sessions on 24th instant. In one case the defendants were returned for trial: the other case was unanimously dismissed.

LORD BALCARRES: May I gather from the right hon. Gentleman's Answer that he repudiates the statement made by this gentleman and other similar statements, to which I privately called his attention, to the effect that he is encouraging agitation and terrorism?

MR. BIRRELL: If the noble Lord could think I am capable of encouraging agitation and terrorism, he would not attach any importance to any reply I might give here.

Sligo County Councillor.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, as President of the Irish Local Government Board or otherwise, he is aware that a person named Peter Cawley, though not a member, constantly speaks and votes at meetings of the Sligo County Council; that the Local Government Board recently declined to sanction the election of a county surveyor on the ground of the invalidity of the vote of this person; whether he is aware that this person has since spoken and voted at meetings of the council; and, as no one in Sligo would venture to prosecute, will the Local Government Board take steps to prosecute Cawley for illegally acting and voting as a county councillor.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that the person named in the Question occasionally speaks and has voted at meetings of the Sligo County Council. It is the fact that the Local Government Board have declined to sanction the appointment of county surveyor owing to the invalidity of the vote of this gentleman. Inquiry is being made as to the latter part of the Question.

Irish Board of Agriculture — Commissioner's Report.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) will be presented.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that the Commissioners are not unanimous as to the terms of their Report. I understand that the Report of the majority is substantially complete and will be submitted in the course of a few days. A minority Report, however, is to be prepared, and this will not be ready for two or three weeks.

MR. BARRIE: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to let the House have the Report before we deal with the Estimates concerning this Department?

MR. BIRRELL: I will use my best efforts to secure that.

Maxwell Estate, Londonderry.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there has been exceptional delay in vesting the Maxwell estate, in county Londonderry, in the tenants, while adjoining estates, sold about the same time, have been vested a year ago; and will he take steps to expedite the vesting of the Maxwell estate.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that there has been no exceptional delay in this case, the purchase agreements in which were lodged in February, 1905. The Commissioners have instructed their surveyor to check the boundaries and occupancy of the holdings, and as soon as this has been done, the inspection will take place.

Sligo County Council and Home Rule.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the Report of a recent meeting of the Sligo County Council, at which a speaker declared, amid applause, that they in Sligo wanted neither Home Rule nor devolution, as the law of the national organisation was supreme there, and that the branches of that organisation should visit with their curse everyone, landlord, policeman, or anyone else, who showed the least opposition; and is it intended to allow meetings of county councils to be used for delivery of seditious speeches and incitements to outrage.

MR. BIRRELL: I have had the advantage of reading a report of the speech referred to in the Question. This speech was delivered in support of a resolution, unanimously passed by the Sligo County Council, to the effect that nothing short of Home Rule will satisfy the people of Ireland. I do not propose to take any steps in regard to the speech.

Roscommon Meeting.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if 100 police were sent to a meeting at Four Mile Chapel, Roscommon, on Sunday last, what was the object of the meeting, and what was the necessity for the attendance of such a force of police; and if this district is in a peaceful condition.

MR. BIRRELL: A force of eighty police was assembled for the purpose of preserving the peace in connection with the meeting in question. The meeting was called for the purpose of promoting the agitation against the grazing system, and the police had reason to apprehend that an attempt might be made to drive the cattle off a certain farm in the locality. The place lies within an area which has lately been somewhat disturbed.

King's County Grazing Farm Dispute.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mr. Luttrell has, as a result of the intimidation to which he has been subjected, been compelled to surrender his grazing farm at

Roscomroe, King's County; and whether the Government intend to permit this farm to be divided amongst the surrounding tenants, in view of the fact that boycotting and other illegal methods have been employed to force the landlords to sell.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that Mr. Luttrell has not yet surrendered the farm, though he has expressed his intention of surrendering it at the next gale day. In reply to the latter part of the Question, I would refer to my Answer to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division on the 14th instant.† I have no information that any proceedings for the sale of the farm have been instituted.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Will the right hon. Gentleman reconsider his decision not to re-enact the rule prohibiting the Estates Commissioners advancing money for the purchase of farms in cases where intimidation has been exercised?

MR. MOORE: Is it not the fact that Mr. Luttrell was obliged to surrender his farm because of the inadequate police protection afforded him?

[No Answer was returned.]

Corboy (Birr) Outrage.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the gates on the farm of Mr. Patrick Corboy, near Birr, were smashed on a night last week and the cattle driven to a distance of some miles from the farm; whether he has any official information showing that the fact that Corboy had lent his car for the conveyance of the police was the motive of the outrage; and what steps the police have taken with regard to the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that the gates of Mr. Corboy's farm were broken at night and his cattle were found a mile from the farm. Mr. Corboy's carts had been employed by the police, but whether this fact furnished the motive for the injury can be a matter of opinion only. The police have taken steps to prevent further interference with Mr. Corboy.

Labourers Acts in Down and Antrim.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the amounts awarded by the inspectors under the Labourers Acts in the counties of Antrim and Down; if he is aware that these amounts are 40 per cent. under the value heretofore given and which the land would fetch in the open market, and considerably below the value put on the same by the promoting councils themselves; if any change has been made in the instructions given to valuers, and will they be instructed to award a market price for the land taken; and has his attention been called to a resolution received from the Ballymoney Rural District Council in this connection.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have no information to the effect stated in the Question. They have, however, received a resolution from the Ballymoney Rural District Council requesting that the arbitrator should be instructed to include in his award the sums agreed upon by the council and the parties interested in certain cases. The Local Government Board do not issue instructions to arbitrators as to the basis on which they should assess compensation, and it would be irregular for them to do so.

Time Limits for Speeches.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will consider the advisability of introducing a time limit to speeches in the Standing Committees.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am personally in favour of limiting the time of speeches both in the House and in Standing Committees, but I can see no chance of taking any practical steps in this direction at present.

Sir Antony MacDonnell.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the Government to transfer

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 799–800.

Sir Antony MacDonnell from the Under-Secretaryship of Ireland to an Indian appointment.

MR. MOORE: At the same time may I ask the Prime Minister if Sir Antony MacDonnell has expressed his desire to be relieved of the duties of his office of Under-Secretary.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Answer to both Questions is in the negative.

Control of Army Expenditure.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government intend to propose any alteration in the settled system of Parliamentary control over Army expenditure or in the powers and responsibilities either of the Public Accounts Committee, the Comptroller and Auditor General, Accounting Officers, or Sub-Accounting Officers, and will he undertake that no such alteration shall be made without being previously submitted to this House; have His Majesty's Government any intention of adopting the proposal of the Secretary of State for War for so altering the present system as to make the soldier the economist, to rely upon him for telling Parliament how to make the money go furthest, and to give him a free hand in doing so; and do His Majesty's Government intend to depart in any way from the declaration and recommendations of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of 26th May, 1905, which Report received the sanction of this House on 26th July, 1905.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: These appear to be Questions which are being considered by the House in Committee on The Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill; and it is in the course of those discussions that an Answer ought to be and will be given to them. I know of no proposal or intention to curtail Parliamentary control over Army expenditure. Any alterations in the control of Parliament over expenditure by way of accounts would have to be proposed with due regard to the constitutional practice, and with due regard also to any Resolution of this House. Questions of economy and of the merit of expenditure would come before it as a matter of estimate rather than of accounting.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked as to the business for next week.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill would be taken on the first three days of next week, and the Indian Budget on Thursday.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (added in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr Wiles and Mr. Arnold Herbert; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr. William Pearce and Mr. Whitwell Wilson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (added in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Houston; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Sir Henry Craik.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

POOR LAW (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To further amend the Law relating to the settlement of the Poor in Scotland," presented by Sir Thomas Glen Coats; supported by Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Dundas White, and Mr. Younger; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 216.]

SUPPLY [11TH ALLOTTED DAY]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907-8.

CLASS II

1. £12,641, to complete the sum for Fishery Board, Scotland.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) called attention to the inadequate protection afforded to the Scottish fishermen by Fishery Board cruisers and Government gun-boats. Year after year he declared, the question was raised, but nothing was done. They badly needed additional cruisers. He noticed that one of these cruisers had been sold; he supposed that she was "weighed in the balances and found wanting;" she was a vessel which had not been very long in the Service and he would like to know why she was sold. He would also like to know what sum had been accumulated for the purpose of purchasing new fishery cruisers. It was an extremely serious matter for the fishermen, because these cruisers had been steadily diminishing instead of increasing. What made matters worse was the fact that the cruisers were not so fast as the trawlers, and the latter which had their own system of "look out" took good care to keep out of the way of the cruiser. Such a state of affairs was simply scandalous, and should not be allowed to go on any longer. The Fishery Board was not properly constituted to deal with the question. Some of its members were ironmongers, and possibly some grocers; these were not the right class of men to look after the interests of line fishermen. The Scottish fishing industry was one that should be under the care of a Government Department who would carefully consider its requirements. The line fishermen, in the event of a great naval war, would be a most useful class of men, but at the present time they were being driven into the poor-houses and the slums of our great cities. He appealed to the Secretary for Scotland to use his power to make the Fishery Board pay greater attention to their work. What they wanted on that body were men of experience who could give their undivided attention to their duties. At present they had not such men; the chairman, for instance, also served on several other Boards, and he (Mr. Weir) understood acted as chairman of the Building Committee of the Congested Districts Board. He noticed from the reports that there were fewer penalties imposed last year than in the year 1905. He had himself seen on a Saturday afternoon these robbers stealing into Broad Bay, Island of Lewis, for the purpose of trawling. He had himself telegraphed to the Scottish Office notifying the fact, yet nothing whatever had been done. No attention whatever had been paid to the matter. There had only been four cases detected on the shores of Lewis, when the number ought to have been more like 400, and only one on the coast of Sutherlandshire. The total amount of the penalties inflicted was £2,280, or £365 less than in 1905, and only in six cases was the extreme penalty of £100 imposed. They were going back instead of forward in the matter. And this money instead of going to help to provide new fishery cruisers went into the rapacious maw of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and they heard no more of it. He also suggested to the Secretary for Scotland that he should give some consideration to the small fishery harbours round the coast. The harbour at Balintore, on the east coast of Ross-shire, was constructed on the plans and under the supervision of the Fishery Board for Scotland. When it was finished it was handed over to local trustees, fishermen who knew nothing of harbour construction. For several years past the bed of the harbour had been silting up, and in a short time the harbour would be of no use. When attention was called to the matter the Fishery Board said they had handed it over to local trustees, and it was for the local trustees to keep it in order. That was all very well, but he said the harbour should have been properly constructed in the first instance. The Fishery Board were much to blame for trying to slip out of their responsibilities in that way. He contended that the Fishery Board should see that these harbours were in proper order, so that the line fishermen should not be deprived of facilities to earn their living. Notwithstanding the Report of the Commission appointed some years ago to inquire into this matter nothing had been done, and he earnestly pressed the right hon. Gentleman to see that the Fishery Board put these harbours in order. Let them do something for their money. He did not want to see money wasted, but he noticed that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War got every penny he wanted, and Scotland suffered so badly that he implored the Secretary for Scotland to stiffen his back and go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and insist upon his stumping up some money for Scotland. His complaint was of the lethargy of the Fishery Board. One thing they might do to encourage information being given of illegal trawling, was to be a little more liberal to lighthouse keepers and coastguardsmen, who often had to walk twenty or thirty miles to give evidence, and then only received about 3s. He would like to see the right hon. Gentleman or the Chairman of the Fishery Board walk thirty miles and hang about a court for hours for a miserable pittance of 3s. It seemed to him that the Fishery Board were engaged upon arrant rubbish in too many cases. They wanted practical work done; they wanted the nation's work done; they wanted the interests of 100,000 people engaged in the line fishing attended to. Imperial motives should prompt their taking care of these fishermen, who, in time of emergency, might be called upon to man our Fleet. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would attend to the matters to which he had called attention, and see that the inefficient members of the Fishery Board were swept out, and that those who remained or were freshly appointed did their work. He was afraid that there was too much kid-glove business going on in Edinburgh, which was hundreds of miles away from the cottages of these fishermen and from London. He feared there was a good deal of skulking on the part of not a few officials in the Edinburgh government offices and too much time spent in clubs.

Mr. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) said he desired strongly to confirm what had fallen from his hon. friend as to the action, or want of action, of the Fishery Board. He sincerely trusted that his right hon. friend would see the necessity of doing something to show that there was an authority in Scotland who took some interest in this subject, and was prepared to do some work in support of the fishing industry. A considerable portion of the West Coast of Scotland was largely interested in the herring fishery. A conference of hon. Members interested in the subject and of the Fishery Board was held two years ago to consider whether there should be a close time for herring. There was a considerable division of opinion among the fishermen, but there was a decided tendency to meet the views, if possible, of all parties interested by having a close time. As the result of the conference the Fishery Board had taken the question up, but the only answer they had got was that when the fishermen were agreed as to the policy which should be pursued, the Board would put it in force. Of course, if they were all agreed, there would be no need of the intervention of the Fishery Board; but their object was to arrive at a definite settlement of that most important question. That was the only answer, however, which they had received from the Fishery Board; and from that day to this nothing had been done to settle the matter. He strongly urged the necessity of insisting that the Fishery Board should arrive at some conclusion and see that whatever was decided as the right conclusion was properly carried out. The herring fishery was not only an important source of food supply but employed a large number of people, and the industry, moreover, was an admirable nursery of seamen from the Admiralty point of view. He sincerely hoped that they would have an undertaking from his right hon. friend that the Fishery Board would be prepared to take up the question and deal with it in a satisfactory manner.

*Sir ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs) said that many of his constituents lived on the shores of the Moray Firth, and they were very anxious that the debate this year upon the Scottish Estimates should remove the feeling of uncertainty which existed as to the present position of the trawler question. That uncertainty was increased by the misconception which existed to-day, notably the idea that there was a law in existence as to the three-mile limit. There never had been a general international agreement on the subject of a limit, and as far as the law was concerned, the only statutory enactment now in existence was the Act of 1895, under which not a three-mile but a thirteen-mile limit was appointed. And that was the law to-day. It was true that the Act was passed subject to its confirmation or adoption by the signatories to the North Sea Convention and by a Minute of the Fishery Board, and consequently it had ever since that date lain a dead letter, because none of the signatories to the North Sea Convention, with the exception of Holland, which was responsible for the passing of the Act, had ever asked that it should be adopted. That was the position in Scotland at the time that the High Court of Justice delivered their recent judgment; and in that judgment they were most careful to discriminate between the limit of three miles, admitted by custom or by special contract with particular nations, and the general right which all countries possessed for the protection of their own seaboard when such seaboard referred to waters which were *inter fauces terræ*. The learned Judges founded themselves solely upon the fact that the Moray Firth was territorial water, a land-locked bay. The Court never referred to the three-mile limit contention, which was outside their finding. All States had maintained and sustained their right to protect their own bays—for instance, Newfoundland to the Bay of Conception, France to the Granville Bay, Canada to the Bay of Chaleur, the United States to the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. And now Great Britain had come forward and substantiated her right to the Moray Firth. First Parliament carried an Act to exclude from it the British trawlers; then they conferred upon the Fishery Board the right and power to make regulations; and the Fishery Board, in possession of the sound views of the late Mr. Esslemont, had excluded all Foreign Powers from the right to trawl in the Moray Firth. Then came the decision of the High Court of Justice confirming that resolution excluding Foreign Powers from trawling in the Firth. And so the case was complete. At first they half thought that His Majesty's Government were going to stand by the Fishery Board and by the High Court; at least since that decision they had undertaken the prosecution of British sailors who were found on Norwegian trawlers within the Firth, and they had given notice that they would bring in a Bill to prevent the sale of Moray Firth trawled fish in British ports. But the Government had never tackled the question of whether or not they would support the finding of the High Court of Justice, and remove this feeling of suspense. Since the Elgin prisoners were pardoned and released, there had been a considerable accession of foreign trawlers in the Moray Firth, and he would ask the attention of the Secretary for Scotland particularly to the fact that there were four Conventions between Great Britain and other countries which touched upon this subject—the Conventions of 1839 and 1867 with France; the Belgian Convention of 1852; and the North Sea Convention of 1882, which was contracted between Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark and Holland. If the right hon. Gentleman looked at all these Conventions from end to end he would not find one word to show that we had relinquished our rights to entire jurisdiction over the Moray Firth. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to give expression to what was really the policy and position of the Government in regard to the decision of the High Court, and he appealed to him all the more earnestly because he was speaking for the line fishermen in his own constituency, to whom it was a matter of vital moment, for it meant their daily bread.

*Mr. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire) said he was desirous of calling attention to an important matter of administration which at present was very adversely affecting the fisheries in the Firth of Clyde generally, and particularly within the limits of the county which he represented. He referred to the case of beam trawling. By the Herring Fishery (Scotland) Act, 1889, beam trawling had been prohibited all round the coast within the three-mile limit, and also in specified areas, one of which was the Firth of Clyde within a line drawn from the Mull of Cantyre to Corsewall Point. If that had been allowed to work the whole of this area would have been closed to the beam trawlers. There was, however, one section of the Act which enabled the Fishery Board to make exemptions, and a few months after the Act was passed the Board issued a by-law permitting beam trawling for small sailing vessels within a line drawn across the Firth at the south end of Bute. That by-law had since been replaced by the present By-law No. 16, which was to the same general effect. The general result had been a considerable amount of beam trawling which had done a vast amount of harm to the line fisheries. The complaint against beam trawling was that it raked up the spawning beds, disturbed the fishing grounds, and destroyed a large number of immature fish. The complaint was not as to what the trawlers took, but as to what they spoiled. This destructive mode of fishing had spoiled the prospects of the line fishermen, and now it was spoiling the prospects of the beam trawlers themselves. He would like to quote what was said on this subject in the recently issued Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland as regards the only two fishery districts within this trawling area. Referring to the Greenock District, the Report said—

> "About a dozen beam trawlers were at work from Greenock, Largs, and Saltcoats, but their efforts were not attended with much success. Most of the catches consisted of medium-sized plaice."

For the Rothesay district the Report stated that—

> "Beam trawling is yearly becoming less remunerative to the Rothesay crews who engage in it. It is quite evident that unless flat fish become more numerous in the restricted area, in which the crews are allowed to fish for nine months of the year, this mode of fishing will soon be altogether extinct in the Clyde."

The only way to prevent the fisheries from becoming extinct was to extinguish this injurious mode of fishing. The injury had been felt with peculiar severity in his own constituency. The Gareloch might almost have been designed by Nature as a spawning ground and fish hatchery for the Clyde. The outer basin was about two miles across; the inner basin, above the narrows at Row Point was approximately oblong, being about five miles long and one mile wide. The bottom was of a suitable character for a spawning ground, the landlocked character of the loch prevented the waves of the Firth from entering it, and the narrows checked the flow of the tide, thus obviating heavy scour on the fishery grounds, and preventing the colder waters of the estuary from flooding the warmer waters of the loch. The lowness of the hills immediately round it allowed the loch to be open to the sunshine and it was an ideal ground for the young fish. There had been no beam trawling in the loch till some five or six years ago, when some trawling vessels from other parts of the Clyde had commenced operations there, and the result of their presence in raking up the beds and taking immature fish had been extremely deleterious. This had very much affected the line fishermen and those who made a living by letting to summer visitors. The whole community around had been adversely affected. The County Council of Dumbartonshire had unanimously passed a resolution condemning trawling in Gareloch. So had the council of the parish of Row on the one side of the loch, and he could assure the Secretary for Scotland from personal experience that feeling on the subject was no less strong in the parish of Rosneath on the other side. He appealed to the Fishery Board to get rid of By-law 16 altogether and prevent trawling in any part of the Firth of Clyde. If it was felt that that was too far to go, he would ask that at least Gareloch should be removed from the scope of the by-law, so as to prohibit this destructive mode of fishing there. This kind of fishing went on for nine months in the year, and there was only three months close time. The close time ended on the 15th June, and he would urge upon his right hon. friend that, even if he decided to deal with Gareloch alone by exempting it from By-law 16, he should arrange for the new rule to come into force before the 15th of June, when the present close season ended. The reform which he advocated would do much to improve the fisheries of the Clyde and to enable the fisher folk to reap a better harvest from the seas.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs) said he wished to add his protest against the delay in issuing the Report, which he did not receive until 11.30 the previous night, and as he had to attend a Committee of the House of Commons at eleven o'clock that morning, he had not had time to master its details. He agreed that there ought to be an addition to the four fishery cruisers which patrolled the shores of Scotland. It was manifestly impossible for those cruisers to do their work properly, because they were handicapped in every way, and it was high time some addition was made to that force. He shared the view that if the penalties paid by trawlers could be put into another fund instead of going to the Chancellor of the Exchequer it would be a great advantage. That was a point which he thought was well worthy of the attention of the Secretary for Scotland. He did not intend to join in the diatribes of the hon. Member for Ross against the Fishery Board. He did not know all the members of that Board, but those he did know were excellent men, and he was sure it was not any want of ability or goodwill on their part that prevented them carrying out their work more satisfactorily. The main trouble was want of money. The Board was being starved for want of money, and unless more was supplied it would be most difficult for them to do more than they were doing at present. With regard to the whale fisheries, there was a concensus of opinion amongst the fishermen with whom he was acquainted that the establishment of the whale fishery stations had been disastrous to the herring fishing. Up to the present everything appeared to go to prove that the fishermen were right in that contention. Hon. Members were probably aware that whales acted as a kind of sheep dog to the herrings, driving them into shoals, and they were useful as guides to the fishermen, enabling them to know where the herrings were. Consequently fishermen liked the live whale and hated the dead whale, because the latter drove the fish away by fouling the water. He was aware that the whale stations were now conducted under more sanitary rules, but frequently a wounded whale might escape and die, and that had just as bad an effect as the old system which permitted the cutting up of the whale in the sea, which resulted in fouling the water. The Secretary for Scotland had promised them a Whale Fisheries Bill, and he hoped that something would be done to prevent the trouble complained of. He thought a good deal might be done to improve the harbours on the coast of Scotland. He knew the difficulties of the right hon. Gentleman in this matter, because every hon. Member who represented a fishing village, however small, spoke up for his own harbour. He had six or seven harbours in respect of which to put forward claims, and it was perhaps somewhat invidious to press the claims of one harbour as against another. There was one harbour, that of Anstruther, the largest in his constituency, to the complaints about the inadequacy of which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give a kindly ear. He thought it was high time that something was done for the fishermen on the coast of the Firth of Forth. It should not be forgotten what a fine race of men the fishermen were, what an excellent reserve they formed for the Fleet, and how useful they would be in times of stress in case of a great war. Under those circumstances they would depend very largely upon the fishermen, who consequently deserved all the encouragement the Government could give them.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said the Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland presented some very satisfactory features, and some regrettable ones of omission. The fishing had been good on the whole, and although not equal in amount to the two previous years, had been of considerably greater value. According to the Report the herring fishing was the mainstay of the fishing population, affording a living to 35,900, or 92 per cent. of the fishermen of Scotland, and it was therefore necessary that the Fishery Board should pay the closest attention to all matters that directly or indirectly affected that industry. He regretted very much that the Report made no reference to the failure of the herring fishing in many districts in Shetland. At Hoswick, Sandsain, Aithsvoe, and Bressay there had been a great decrease both in quantity and value. At Whalsay, Skerries, and Vidlin there had been a great decrease in quantity; whilst at Burravoe and Gossabrough there had been a great decrease in herrings. At Mid Yell, Gutcher and Cullival the Returns showed a general decrease in herrings; and there had also been a great decrease in herring fishing in Muness and Colvidale, Uyasound, Westing, Snarravae, and Ramnagoe. Baltasound, Haroldswick, and Norwich showed a decrease in herring fishery of over 50 per cent. A great decrease in herrings, quantity and value amounting to only a third of last year's figures, had taken place at Ronasvoe, Stennis, Hillswick and Brae, Papa and Voe; and the same applied to Foula, Sandness and Vaila. Those were serious figures, and he understood the fishermen were unanimous in believing that the falling off was due to the indiscriminate destruction of whales that had been carried on since 1902. There were a number of small settlements of crofters and cotters along the coast, and the poor people were able to make something by collecting whelks and mussels. Some years ago the Norwegian fishermen found themselves face to face with a similar state of things. The destruction of whales had been going on for some time there, and the herring fishing had been distinctly falling off. The Norwegian fishermen brought the matter in a very forcible manner before their Government, and the result was that a measure was enacted prohibiting the destruction of whales for several years. Shetland was then seized upon by the Norwegian whaling companies, and operations were started there by them at Ronasvoe, and one of the loveliest voes in Shetland had been turned into a filthy cesspool. The herring stations had been abandoned, the mussels had been destroyed. A state of affairs existed that would not have been tolerated in other parts of His Majesty's dominions. Later on, other whaling stations had been started, and if hon. Members could only see for themselves the abominations that existed, that there was no sanitary inspection and control, they would wonder, as he did, why the Fishery Board had refrained from making any comment on this scandalous and outrageous state of affairs. He regretted that the Fishery Board had not made some inquiry into the matter of the whale fishing. He knew the views of the Secretary for Scotland in the matter. Having brought to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman the figures quoted from the Report of the Fishery Board, he hoped that something would be done to protect the interests of the fishermen whose industry had suffered so seriously. It was a matter of common knowledge that the herring fishing, important as it was, lasted but a short time. The chief inspector said that it seldom lasted in one district for more than from two to three months. The herring industry had certain features that demanded close attention, and a very important feature was that it could not be carried on with comfort and decency without an ample supply of water. Only last year he visited a station at Lerwick, and it was pitiable to see poor women, after a hard day's toil, having to travel along a rough path a considerable distance for a pail of water—an instance of petty tyranny, for if he was correctly informed an ample supply could have been readily obtained. The question of water supply had been brought before the Fishery Board with reference to Lerwick and also at Stronsay. The local authority at the latter island had made a very strong appeal to the Fishery Board, which had received scant consideration. The position seemed to be this. A special water district had been formed, the inhabitants expended a sufficient sum to give them what water they required, but during the herring season the supply was utterly inadequate. In 1901 the fishing amounted to 23,420 cwts., of the value of £4,376; while in 1905 it amounted to 83,710 cwts., of the value of £17,449. The Reports by General-Inspector of Sea Fisheries admitted the water supply was defective and required attention. For the normal population there was enough, but the great want was for the fishermen. The public pump was denied them, and a lock was placed upon it. In former years they had the water free, and had it carried to the pier in barrels, and now they had to pay. In addition to this difficulty the water was distinctly bad, and it was said that during an epidemic of diarrhœa the only fishermen who escaped were the crew of a steamer that brought water from elsewhere. He believed that the Fishery Board could settle this and other matters with very little expense, possibly not by their own direct action, but in connection with the Local Government Board and the Congested Districts Board. According to the Reports the trawling industry also showed signs of improvement, and doubtless it was a matter for congratulation that a source of good supply should be fully developed, but there was a lamentable amount of ignorance, or affected ignorance, on this question. Trawling in the vast expanse of the ocean doubtless was an exceedingly desirable industry, but it was altogether otherwise when trawling companies deliberately and purposely carried their operations within that area which the Legislature had very wisely debarred from their operations; and while he cheerfully admitted that the Fishery Board did its best, with the resources at its command, to protect the rights of the fishermen, he regretted that this should be necessary, and he felt sure that the convictions of the last few years but feebly represented the number of trawlers who had no respect for the laws of the State, no consideration for the rights of their fellows, and thought nothing of sweeping inshore waters clear and leaving the fishermen and their families to starve. The Report showed that during the last three years there had been thirty, thirty-four, and thirty-five convictions, and that penalties amounting to considerable sums had been imposed and paid, but again he had to express regret that in the same period forty-seven masters had gone to prison rather than pay the fine. If the master was the owner and preferred to pay in that manner there would be nothing to be said, but what happened, he feared, was that the trawling company said to the master: "Your ship is not fit to trawl on the ocean; the only way you can get your wages and earn our dividends is by poaching in the inshore waters. Catch fish, no matter how, but if you are caught you must go to prison, as we will not pay any fines that may be imposed." He thought the Fishery Board must be fully cognisant of these circumstances, but if they could do nothing else they should press for confiscation and destruction of gear, and thereby impose an adequate penalty on the real offenders, namely, the companies or individuals who sent men out to break the law. The Fishery Board had an enormous responsibility not only by sea but by land. If the interests of the fishermen were to be sacrificed to those of great trawling companies it meant the breaking up of many a small home and holding. He sincerely trusted the Secretary for Scotland would use the powers which he possessed for the benefit and protection of these poor people.

*MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs) said he wished to join the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty in protesting against the present composition and constitution of the Scottish Fishery Board. The feeling adverse to the Board was almost universally shared by those engaged in the fishing industry. So much was that the case that when the last Board came to an end in January last year a petition from the Scotsmen, numbering several thousands, connected with the herring fishing industry at Yarmouth was sent to the Secretary for Scotland. He had the honour of transmitting that petition to the right hon. Gentleman. In it the petitioners asked for the appointment on the Board of one of the best known men in the North-East of Scotland, who was thoroughly competent and practical, and who knew the needs of the fishing industry. The Fishery Board was composed of seven members—the chairman, a scientific member, a legal member, and four practical members. Upon what principle these four practical members were nominated he never could understand. He had sometimes thought that the sole qualification of some of them was their entire ignorance of everything connected with the industry. The petition to which he referred was presented in December, 1905, but the Secretary for Scotland came to the decision that, acting on what he described as the best possible advice, he could do nothing better than reappoint the whole Board. The right hon. Gentleman in his communication went on to say that the work of the Board was wholly administrative. All that he (the Speaker) could say was that members of the Fishery Board boasted that they were the official advisers of the Government on fishery questions, and if that were so, the Fishery Board initiated policy. What had been the result? It was that the petitioners were not only disappointed with what the Secretary for Scotland had done, but were disgusted. From John o' Groats to Maidenkirk, from the Associations of the Moray Firth Wick, and elsewhere, complaints had been made in regard to the constitution of the Fishery Board. As hon. Members perhaps knew, the one source of revenue on which the Fishery Board relied rested on the herring-brand fees. The largest contributors to those fees were Shetland, Peterhead, Aberdeen, and Fraserburgh. Yet strange to say, not one of those centres of the herring fishing industry had a representative on the Fishery Board. Perhaps no other industry in Scotland had developed in recent years like that of fishing. Its progress read almost like a fairy tale. Fishermen on the north-east coast had procured steam fishing boats without State aid; yet they were told that the best-known men connected with that industry, who by their energy, enterprise, and capacity had built it up, were not the best judges of its requirements and of the sort of men who should compose the Fishery Board of Scotland. They had even been refused such a moderate reform as the substitution of one man regarding whose qualifications there was unaminity for another. Not only did the Secretary for Scotland refuse to make the appointment, but when asked to reconsider the question of the constitution of the Board, he declined to do so in a way which both in manner and in matter was a model of curtness. He himself believed that a Bill to increase the members of the Fishery Board would receive no opposition from either side of the House. What he suggested was that there should be an elective element on the Fishery Board. The present Board was appointed for five years: that was, for the life of the present Government. Supposing the Government went out of office and another Government came in, the new Secretary for Scotland might say when the five years for which the Board was elected had expired, that he had neither time nor sufficient knowledge of the subject to go into the merits of the case, and that he would reappoint the old Board. That was not a fair or worthy way of dealing with such an important industry on which so many thousands of people were dependent. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would introduce a short Bill this session to increase the membership of the Board. He associated himself with what had been said by the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty as to grants for small harbours. That was a very important matter and would become increasingly urgent. He was also glad that the question of the Whale Fishery Bill had been referred to. It was promised last year, if it was not passed this session it could not come into operation until 1909. He appealed to the Secretary for Scotland to bring in a Bill at the earliest possible moment dealing with the subject. As to trawling in the Moray Firth, he had never been able to understand why it was that the Government which, after considering the matter for three weeks, had ordered prosecutions should on the first note of protest have liberated the prisoners. He trusted the Government would continue in the course which they were now adopting.

*Mr. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs) said that, so far as his personal experience was concerned, he would like to dissent from the unfavourable remarks which had been made in regard to the Fishery Board. He had always found that the Board took a most earnest interest in the questions brought before them, and that they did their best to hold the scales evenly. The Board had, he confessed, performed their duties rigidly and equitably to those whom he represented. As to the membership of the Board, he thought that independent men, not connected directly with the fishery industry, would be best able to see that there was something to be said on both sides of any question brought forward. As to a close time for the herring fishery, his constituents believed that it was best to leave well alone. The Campbeltown fishermen, at any rate, objected to any close time for the herring fishery, and after going into the subject very closely he agreed that they were right in refusing to have a close time. Even it it were imposed it would be impossible to enforce it. He wished to impress on the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland that they had serious grievances against illegal trawling. He thought that the power of punishing those illegal trawlers should be greater than at present existed. At present the punishment of the persons who were really guilty of this illegal trawling was extremely cleverly avoided. As he understood the matter, the responsible person on board of the trawler was called the sailing master, but he was only engaged at a very small wage and usually occupied a very subordinate position. If that person was tried and convicted for illegal trawling, and perhaps the extreme penalty of £100 fine or two months imprisonment was inflicted, it turned out on close investigation that it was part of the condition of his engagement that if convicted, he was expected to go to prison. The man who was proceeded against did not therefore pay the fine at all, and in consideration of his willingness to go to prison got double wages for the whole time that he was ashore. The arrangements of the Legislature were therefore evaded in an exceedingly clever way, and until they had some amendment of the existing Act of Parliament increasing existing penalties they could not deter these gentlemen from risking a little poaching the moment they got into protected waters. He thought it would be an advantage to the Fishery Board if in some matters they had more extended powers. While he agreed with the hon. Member for Argyll in the main, he did not wish it to be understood that his constituents would agree that there should be a close time for herrings; in fact they were opposed to it.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) quite agreed with regard to the dissatisfaction which existed among the fishing community as to the work of the Fishery Board. It seemed to him that his hon. friend had suggested the right way out of the difficulty, namely, to have a large representative element upon the Board, and he hoped that that point would have the attention of the Secretary for Scotland. It was difficult enough to work the lighthouses in Scotland through the Lights Commissioners, who were men of exceptional capacity, but it was still more difficult to work the Fishery Board unless they had men upon it who were acknowledged by the fishermen as their natural leaders. They could only make sure of getting these men by having some representative system by which they could themselves choose their representatives upon the Board. He thought that the country expected some further information in regard to the Moray Firth and the regulations in regard to it. In view of the decision of the Court of Session upon the subject he was not one of those who would press the Secretary for Scotland for any immediate decision on that point, because, no doubt, the decision of the Scottish Court representing its view of the Scottish law was entitled to great weight, especially as it raised questions of international importance, and as to the maintenance of our international rights. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on the firm attitude which he and the Prime Minister had taken up with regard to trespassers upon the Firth. There was nothing to be said in favour of the Grimsby trawlers who came to those waters to fish, and the more of them who were sent to prison the better. At the same time, he thought that some further information should be given as to the progress of the movement for the extension of the law prohibiting the landing of fish in England. The question was a very simple one, and he hoped the Government would take such steps as would prevent the fish trawled in Scottish waters being landed at English ports as well as at Scottish ports. If that could not be done they would do no good.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs) called attention to the present system of punishing people guilty of illegal fishing. The present penalties did not matter "one dump" to the owners of the vessels. He suggested that a proviso should be introduced into legislation under which it would be possible to seize the *corpus delicti*. If they seized the vessel a risk to the owner would come in and as a consequence illegal trawling would stop, because the ship might be held for three or six months if necessary. If that were done there would be no risk of innocent persons suffering, but the person who would do so would be the shipowner of Grimsby or Hull. When one captured a burglar one did not give him back his tools, but confiscated them, and the same course should be pursued in the case of the English trawler who violated the rights of others. He was sure that the right hon. Gentleman, knowing the extraordinary importance which was attached to this question in the north of Scotland, would do his best to enforce more rigidly the regulations of which he and the Prime Minister had expressed themselves to be in favour. He wished also to raise a question as to the estuary of the River Ness. The fishermen and those who lived on the banks of the estuary had many grievances under the regulations made by the Fishery Commissioners in 1852, and he thought that if those Commissioners had the power to make the regulations they should have power to alter them. If the right hon. Gentleman looked into the matter he would find that it was easy to satisfy the grievances of those who lived on the shores of the estuary. If the Board exercised the powers they had the fishermen might be benefited without any fresh legislation.

Mr. WATT (Glasgow, College) wished to join in what had been described as a diatribe against the Fishery Board, because he thought the Member for Elgin Burghs had correctly described the situation in Scotland. When the right hon. Gentleman reappointed the Fishery Board it was, he thought, a disastrous step. The right hon. Gentleman came into office with a great reputation; he was young and vigorous and had been a soldier, and great things were expected of him. The right hon. Gentleman had faced the enemy abroad on the field of battle, but unfortunately, since he had come into office he had failed to face his enemies at home. His first enemy was the permanent official and his second enemy was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and since he came into office he had failed to get very much out of his enemies. The last Government was described as the worst Government of modern times, and when the right hon. Gentleman came in it was anticipated that a new practical *régime* would begin, but as had been stated by the hon. Member for the Elgin Burghs, that had not resulted. If the right hon. Gentleman had been left to his own resources, no doubt he would have nominated a member on the Fishery Board who would carry out his views. He had therefore to say that it was the permanent officials who overruled the Secretary for Scotland, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman in his future transactions would adopt the system of taking the opposite course to that which the permanent officials suggested.

Mr. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) expressed the opinion that the persons to blame for the trouble in the Moray Firth were not the Fishery Board but the Government, who were quite willing to prosecute British trawlers but would not prosecute foreign trawlers. The result was that the British trawlers employed Norwegians whom the Government were afraid to touch. In the case of the Moray Firth, which was a territorial water, the Government should protect the interests of the British fishermen. It was well known that if they sent up a gunboat the Government could at once stop the trawling complained of. They caught a Norwegian once and were so frightened that they let him go. If Scottish Members wanted the matter put right they must tell the Government plainly that they must protect British fishermen and British interests, and that unless they did that they were no good to anybody.

*Mr. LAMONT (Buteshire) said he agreed with what had fallen from the hon. Member who spoke last, and hoped that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland would protect Scottish fisheries by the addition of at least one more fishery-cruiser; and, if so, he suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should christen her the "Boadicea," in honour of the hon. Member for Ludlow. He totally disagreed, however, with what the hon. Member for the Ayr Burghs had said on the subject of the close-time in the Clyde district. He was convinced that the neglect of the close-time had been one of the main reasons, if not the main reason, for the diminishing yield of herrings in the last few years. What did the 1907

Report of the Fishery Board say? On page 272 the fishery officer for Campbeltown reported that:—

> "The fisheries of the district compare unfavourably with those of the preceding year, and of a considerable number of years past. The collapse of the herring-fishing in Kilbrennan Sound accounts largely for the decrease."
>
> "The usual fishing-grounds on the west and south-west of Arran were fished at intervals; but the shoals, which were in former years so prolific, were not to be found on either side of Kilbrennan Sound."
>
> "Although the district returns show a decrease, financially the fishermen were in a much better position than in 1905. The successful fishings on the Ayrshire coast contributed largely to this satisfactory result."

And what did that show? It showed that the Campbeltown fishermen, having ruined the fisheries in their own immediate vicinity by their disregard of the close-time, were now proceeding to exploit the fisheries of their neighbours. If this debate proved nothing else, it proved that each of the fishery districts throughout Scotland had its own particular problem. It was impossible for the Fishery Board to deal effectively with this great variety of local questions. It was certainly desirable that some at least of the members of that Board should be practical men; and it might perhaps be strengthened, as had already been suggested, by the addition of an elective element. But he did not agree with the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs in thinking that the Board would be strengthened in its work by an increase of its number. The hon. Member for the College Division and the hon. Member for Ross had referred (the latter not for the first time) in slighting terms to a member of the Board who was also an ironmonger. Well, he held no brief for the gentleman in question, who was, indeed, the President of the Conservative Association in his constituency. But he must say this, that in all matters relating to his duties on the Fishery Board he had always found this gentleman courteous, capable, and well informed; and he hoped that for many years to come he would continue to fulfil those duties in the same efficient and energetic manner. The debate having brought out the fact that each district had its own particular problem, he hoped it had also brought to the knowledge of the Secretary for Scotland the urgency of creating sea fishery district committees, such as had been created in England since 1888. The Act of 1888 empowered county councils and borough councils to create district committees for the control and management of the fisheries off the coasts of the district, and those committees had worked extremely well. Scotland had had the same power ever since 1895, but in no single instance had it been exercised. He thought the creation of such committees would be of enormous value in focussing local opinion, and in thrashing out local problems. Any recommendations which came from them would carry great weight with the Fishery Board, and in addition to that he was certain that the right hon. Gentleman would find them a convenient buffer between the fisherman and his grievances on the one hand, and the right hon. Gentleman and the Fishery Board on the other. He hoped, therefore, that the Secretary for Scotland would take an early opportunity of urging the county councils of Scotland to put the Act of 1895 into force, by applying to them some incentive of the nature recently described by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies as "ginger."

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said he rose to ask a question of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to a promise given last year in reference to the use of the drift net in the Forth along the shores of Stirlingshire and Kinross-shire. The matter was laid before the House and the right hon. Gentleman by his hon. friend the Member for Kinross-shire; and the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that there was hardship in the present prohibition of the drift net. He wished to know if any progress had been made towards validating the use of the drift net where, owing to the character and extraordinary formations of river banks, the fishermen were unable to use a sweep net. The prohibition was a very great hardship, and many persons had been thrown out of work owing to the interdict which had been placed upon the drift net.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherlandshire) said he had been waiting for twelve months or more to say a word or two on the question of Scottish fisheries and one or two other local matters in connection therewith which ought to be considered. They could find plenty of time and money for warlike affairs, but it was extremely difficult to get a few minutes to discuss local affairs, and still more difficult to get money for local purposes. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty with regard to the presentation of these annual Reports. It was not fair to Members that they should be presented only a few minutes or a few hours before the Vote was to be discussed, and there was no reason why it should be so. He noticed in the Reports that in regard to some matters some of the permanent officials had not got beyond 1905. He would like the right hon. Gentleman to remind those gentlemen that eighteen months had elapsed since then. He did not complain of the right hon. Gentleman, but he thought he should wake up the permanent officials to their duties, because there was a general impression that they were a lot of old Tory fogies, who in the main were against all progress and improvements that were in favour of the interests and welfare of the masses. In respect to these local affairs, they were worse off now than when they were under a Tory Government; he did not know why; perhaps it was because they had voted Liberal at the last election. In regard to the Fishery Board, he did not know any of its members save the chairman, who alone was paid; he had always been on good terms with him, and had nothing against him personally. The other members of the board were unpaid. The real worth of their services was exactly about what they paid for them, and that was nothing. Who were the members of the board? There were six unpaid members, and he wanted to know what were the positions of these gentlemen, and their ordinary avocations, because the House had a right to pass judgment on the members of the board, even though they were unpaid. If these gentlemen chose to accept office, the House had a right to see that they did their duty, and also to ask whether they were likely to be capable of doing their duty. That was why he wished to get information about them. When did this Board meet? Did it ever meet, and would his right hon. friend produce the minutes of the Board to show what they did? He expected the right hon. Gentleman would have a good deal of trouble about it, a good deal of searching to produce anything of advantage. He expected it was like some other Boards which they had in Scotland and elsewhere, who never met at all, and who generally left the work to the office boy, to whom he was thankful for doing his work so well as he did. He was afraid that the Fishery Board had been appointed on very much the same system as they appointed Committees in the House. If they had a Committee to appoint, they carefully excluded members who knew all about what was wanted, and put on those who knew nothing about it—perhaps so that the matter could not be properly considered, and the Committee could be led to do what was desired. From what he had heard, it would appear that the members of this Board had been selected not because they knew anything about the work connected with the fishing industry, but because they did not know anything. Let it be known who these gentlemen were, and whether they had met to consider anything whatever. He found in the Estimate that there was a net decrease of £1,050 for the present year. If they were saving money in that way, he did not think it was fair to say that they were doing their best so far as expenditure was concerned. If there was not enough money voted they ought to be told, and the Board ought to insist on having a proper sum voted for the particular work in which they were concerned. There was a sum of about £3,000 not mentioned in the Estimate, but which belonged to this work, received in fines from trawlers caught illegally trawling; then there was the sum of £6,682 for brand fees. Those two sums gave a total of about £10,000 which ought to have been spent on this particular service, but they did not know where it went to. He agreed with what had been said in regard to some of these funds, that something ought to be done around the coast of Sutherlandshire to put the piers and harbours in a proper state of repair, so that the fishermen might be able to follow their dangerous calling with greater safety than at present. As to the trawlers, that was a matter which they had always before them; and the trawling which had been introduced of late years was tending to destroy the business of the line fishermen altogether and drive the men out of the country. He should have thought that it was the natural duty of the British Government to protect the fishermen, and to see that they were not done to death by these great trawling companies and trusts. The Government should have been careful to go out of their way to protect so useful a body of men as these line fishermen. The Britisher had been stopped from trawling in the Moray Firth, but the difficulty was with the foreign trawlers. He agreed with a previous speaker that the Government ought to have sufficient courage to insist on closing the Moray Firth against foreign trawlers as well as against British trawlers. It seemed to him to be their simple duty towards the line fishermen to hold the balance fairly between the different sets of trawlers, and he hoped that something would be done shortly to settle the matter. Illegal trawling, mainly by English trawlers, was going on all round the west and north coast of Sutherland, and they had utterly failed to get the Fishery Board to do their duty in that particular neighbourhood; therefore they did not discover, and were not likely to discover, this illegal trawling in territorial waters. Those in charge of the trawlers knew when the cruisers were coming and they took care to be out of the way. It was well known that the cruisers did not properly try to discover the illegal trawling, and there was no watch kept on Sundays. No doubt in Scotland it was a serious offence to break the Sabbath, but English trawlers did not mind doing that. They must, however, have the police out on Sundays just as on other days of the week. When they complained they got no sort of satisfaction from the Fishery Board. Last autumn complaint was made with regard to the cruisers in the neighbourhood of Cape Wrath and Durness, and a memorial was sent by the residents of the parish of Durness. A reply was received as follows—

> "I am directed by the Secretary of State for Scotland to state that the coast in question is regularly patrolled by the fishery cruisers."

Of course the Secretary of State for Scotland did not pretend to know the facts himself, but he had no hesitation in saying that the statement was utterly incorrect, no matter from whom it came. The coast was not regularly patrolled, and that was very well known to the people in the neighbourhood. The letter added—

> "So far as other requirements and the resources the Fishery Board have at disposal permit."

What were the other requirements? Last year he applied to go on one of the cruisers in order to see how they did their work. He was prepared to pay his own expenses, but he received in reply to his application the following—

> "We cannot allow you to go on our ships."

But what happened afterwards? He noticed in the papers that, he believed it was the Vice-President or some permanent officer, had used one of these cruisers for a pleasure trip with ladies to the Lewes. He, who was prepared to go alone and without ladies, in order to see how the work was done, was refused permission to go on one of these cruisers, yet a permanent official with ladies was allowed to go on one for a pleasure trip. He wanted to know from his right hon. friend before the Vote was passed why he was refused permission to go round the coast to see how the cruisers worked. Having heard of the letter which had been sent from Durness, he himself wrote to the Scottish Office, and he received the following reply—

> "DEAR SIR—I am desired by Mr. Sinclair to refer you to the letter of the 4th inst., referring *inter alia* to the petition of the Durness fishermen, and enclose herewith for your information a copy of the Scottish Office letter addressed to them. Mr. Sinclair expresses regret that you did not receive a copy of the letter at the same time that it was sent out."

In reply to that letter he wrote to the Secretary for Scotland pointing out that he brought the complaints before the House of Commons last autumn, and urging that the Fishery Board should discover the illegal trawling, and not expect private individuals to do their work. He was told that one of the difficulties of discovering the trawlers was that their number was very often concealed. All he contended for was that the law should be obeyed by the rich trawlers as well as by the poor fishermen. That was the real point. British trawlers had no right to be trawling within the territorial waters or within the three-mile limit, and what he desired to see was the rich trawlers and trusts compelled to obey the law. Probably he would again be told that there were not cruisers enough. He did not think that could be so, when they allowed a permanent official to take a trip upon one of those cruisers with ladies. The chairman of the Fishery Board was the only paid official, and he noticed according to the papers that he had been appointed a member of the Royal Commission upon Congestion in Ireland. Considering the troubles all around the Scottish coast he wished to know why this official had been sent away to look after the interests of Ireland. He thought that Royal Commission could have been manned without taking away the chairman of the Fishery Board of Scotland. It had been said that they had not cruisers enough, and that they were deficient in speed, and yet the Fishery Board in their Report did not make a solitary request for any more assistance. He did not expect the Board to do much in regard to piers, harbours and lights, but he did complain of the extraordinary treatment of the lighthouse keepers. The hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, as he understood, induced the Secretary for Scotland to allow the lighthouse keepers to take note of any trawlers they might see at work within the three-mile limits, but unless the lighthouse keepers were allowed to give evidence that privilege was no use whatever. Until very recently the lighthouse keepers were not allowed to give evidence at all, and the excuse put forward was that they could not be spared from their duties. Those men had been asked to give evidence against the trawlers, and yet the Secretary for Scotland refused to pay them adequate expenses when they were permitted to give evidence. The fishing industry was one of great importance to his constituency, and they would drive the people away if they allowed the trawlers to take away the trade of the fishing communities, and in that way the county would be depopulated. Last year he brought to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman the case of some trawlers who were working not only within the three-mile limit, but within the line drawn from bay to bay. It was nonsense to expect other people were going to do the work of the cruisers, whose business it was and who were paid to find out when the trawlers were at work. He trusted the Secretary for Scotland would have no hesitation in asking the Government and the Committee for sufficient funds to carry out this work efficiently, and provide cruisers in a sufficient number and of the necessary speed to put an end to this illegal trawling. The present state of things was a disgrace to the Scottish Office. He did not think the time of the Committee could be better spent than in considering the social and trade wants of the people, and he regretted that the debate had not attracted a better attendance. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would consider that they were not raising these questions against him personally; on the contrary, they were anxious to assist him to carry out anything that was for the good of the people of Scotland. As far the officials were concerned, he hoped the Committee would not be afraid of criticising and dealing with permanent officials. Mr. Gladstone once said it was no use having good laws unless they had good administration, and they could not have good administration, unless the laws were carried out by competent permanent officials. He was quite aware how strong these gentlemen were against Ministers, and Ministers frequently tried to make the House believe that hon. Members ought not to say anything about a permanent official or to criticise his conduct. Personally he did not believe in that doctrine, and hoped that Members of this House would not be afraid to criticise both the Government and the officials. Generally speaking, they had an excellent body of officials, but there were exceptions, and Ministers knew it as well as he (Mr. Morton) did. He hoped the Government would carry out all the promises they had made to the people of Scotland upon this subject.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he entirely associated himself with what the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire had said with regard to the desirability of approaching this question free altogether from Party spirit and recrimination. He wished, however, to dissociate himself from what the hon. Member had said about the permanent officials. His experience of them had always been that they discharged their duties very intelligently, with great care, and in the most admirable manner. He could not endorse what had been said by the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs in regard to the action of the

Government in relation to trawling in the Moray Firth. The hon. Member congratulated the Government on their firm attitude. He was not sure that "firm" was the most appropriate word. The decision of the Court of Session which raised the whole matter was given in July, and so far as he had been able to discover no preparations were made by the Government for taking action until six months afterwards, when a trawler was arrested. The accused persons after being incarcerated three days were released. He did not think that could be called a firm attitude. He sincerely hoped that the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was not to be taken as having said the last word on the question in the speech which he made in the House of Lords. He would be sorry if the Government looked upon the Acts of 1885 and 1889 as inoperative on the ground of their being *ultra vires* in relation to international law. He could not agree with that proposition. There were precedents in support of the view that stretches of water between two headlands were territorial waters. There was the Conception Bay case, where, in a dispute which arose between two cable companies, both the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that the waters were territorial. The decision in a dispute which took place in relation to the Bristol Channel some time ago also supported the view of those who believed that the law was being infringed by foreign trawlers in the Moray Firth. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would press the matter on the attention of the Department interested, and that the Foreign Office would maintain a resolute front in dealing with it. One point referred to in the Report of the Fishery Board was a statement to the effect that a vegetable fibre which was grown in the West Indies was an admirable material for the manufacture of herring nets. It had been tried in the Wick district, and the report was that, although it was a little dearer than ordinary fibre, a net made of it caught twice as many herrings. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman and his advisers would not lose sight of the experiments which were being made and that if it was as useful as it had been represented to be the value of the material would be brought to the knowledge of the fishermen. As to motors, he wished to know whether any encouragement had been given to the utilisation of motors as auxiliary engines in fishing boats. If the experiments already made had been successful, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would endeavour to secure some arrangement whereby British motor builders might have an opportunity of supplying them for use in sailing vessels. The provision of cheap auxiliary motor power would solve many of the difficulties which fishermen had at present in connection with small sailing fishing boats. He did not think the hon. Member opposite was correct in saying that the Secretary for Scotland met them in a sympathetic spirit last year on the subject of the use of drift nets. The right hon. Gentleman on that occasion said that he could not endorse or accept on behalf of the Government the Motion which was moved by the hon. Member for Clackmannan and Kinross. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to make the position of the Government more clear on that matter. No doubt the hon. Member voiced a hardship which was felt by the fishermen. Drift net fishing involved the question whether prescription justified what was being done.

*MR. SMEATON said the question which the Secretary for Scotland was asked, was whether he would propose legislation to validate the use of drift nets where the current formation of the banks rendered the sweep net useless.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said he hoped if the right hon. Gentleman took action in the matter it would not be in the direction of continuing a practice which he understood was regarded as an abuse.

MR. GWYNN (Galway) wished to state how this question affected the fishermen of Ireland. They were under the deepest obligation to the Scottish experts who had been sent over by the Scottish Board to give the instruction and the value of their experience. The results of such instruction had been most valuable in the north and west of Ireland and particularly in Donegal. He knew of a case in which one of the herring fishers had applied to the Board in Ireland to be supplied with a motor, which he was quite prepared to pay for, and it was obvious that an enormous improvement could be effected by the use of motors. As to the general situation he hoped the time would come when Irish fishermen would go and take their turn in the Scottish waters. It had been suggested by an hon. Member that the minimum fine in the matter of illegal trawling should be raised, and for his part he was aware that in cases that arose in Ireland the infliction of a small penalty was usually found to be insufficient. In proof of this he mentioned a case in which a fine of £5 was imposed, and the same evening the man was again taken in the commission of a similar offence. That would certainly not have happened if the fine had been made £50. It was, no doubt, perfectly true that the action taken in these matters in one country reacted upon the situation in the neighbouring country. He hoped, therefore, that the Secretary for Scotland would act in unison with the Irish authorities.

Mr. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.) said it was relevant to mention that if we persisted in closing all territorial waters we should probably have foreigners closing ten times bigger water areas against our trawlers. If they did that he was sure that the loss to the national sea fisheries would be a great deal worse to us than anything we now lost by a few foreign trawlers catching some of our fish. He hoped that the Secretary for Scotland would not close any larger areas or any other pieces of water except the Moray Firth. The trawlers from the Humber went fishing in large seas alongside the coasts of other countries and between headlands which were outside the three-mile limit, and if those countries were to close those headlands to our trawlers it would be a great loss to our fishing industry. The National Free Fishery Association which represented the trawling industry said that they wanted free trade for fishing, and not protection.

Mr. J. DEWAR (Inverness) said that in the north-west coast of Scotland many of the crofters were born fishermen, but on account of their poverty they did not get that benefit of the fishery legislation which they ought to. His complaint was that the Fishery Board had done nothing to provide nets and boats for those fishermen on the west coast. If that had been done, the fishing industry there would have been developed quite as successfully as it had been in the north of Ireland. He hoped that the Fishery Board would turn their attention to this matter.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE said that last year he had been on a visit to the west of Ireland and could testify to the excellent work which had been done there in assisting the fishermen. He had read the Reports of the Scientific Department of the Fishery Board. They were exceedingly interesting, but he should like to know whether the Board was getting any practical results from the investigations of that Department. If the Board was satisfied that the practical results obtained were worth the expenditure, well and good; but if they were not, he would suggest that the steamer employed in making those scientific investigations should be used in trying to catch illegal trawlers on the west coast.

Mr. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said that the hon. Member for Hull had concluded his remarks by saying that the trawling industry wanted free trade in fishing, and not protection. He himself was in favour of free trade, but he was inclined to think that the line and net fishermen were entitled to protection. He believed that if the trawlers were allowed to work their sweet will on the fishing grounds, scarcely anything would be left for the other fishermen. What was really wanted more than anything else was that the existing law should be put in force. The Lord-Advocate was a strong man of the law, and he believed that if the right hon. Gentleman's Department put the machinery of the existing law in force against the breakers of it, much good would be accomplished. Many fishermen in the constituency he represented had said to him that they knew they could get a good catch on the fishing grounds, but when the trawlers were there they could not get at the banks. He urged the Secretary for Scotland, when he had a little leisure and could turn his mind from small holdings, to consult with Lord Tweedmouth, and see whether they could not do something to increase the policing of the sea. If that were done there would soon be a revival of the fishing industry.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire) said that those interested in the fishing industry and the Fishery Board had no reason to complain of the discussion that afternoon; and he would endeavour to reply to the various criticisms which had been made. In the first place, he admitted the force of what hon. Members had said as to the publication of the reports of the Fishery Board itself, and about the condition of the fishing industry. He expressed regret that those reports had not been forthcoming earlier; but it had not been possible to issue them earlier for the purposes of the present discussion. However, he would do his best to avoid such a difficulty in the future. It was only on short notice that the Scottish Estimates had been set down for that day. This had been a remarkably prosperous year for the fishing industry in Scotland. Indeed, no previous year had been so prosperous, if they took the value of the catch as a test. Last year and the year before, the quantity of the fish caught was larger, but higher prices were obtained this year; so that it was a record year from the point of view of the value of the catch. The Report of the Board indicated that a change had taken place in the character of the vessels employed in the fisheries. There had been a reduction in the number of sailing vessels, and an increase in the number of steam vessels, not only trawlers, but steam drifters and steam liners. There was remarkable evidence that a large increase of capital had been expended in the provision of new boats, mostly steam drifters, as a consequence of the prosperous seasons of the past year or two. There was no reason for departing in any very large measure from the position hitherto occupied under statute by the Fishery Board. It was an administrative body and, except in the north-west of Scotland, which had been dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, the fishing industry of Scotland did not look for any active nursing from the Department. Of course it was true that in the exercise of its administrative duties the Fishery Board should show energy and be as up to date in its methods as possible. He recognised that no individual member of the Board was complained of, and the criticisms had not gone beyond what was legitimate and fair. It had been said that the Fishery Board might be greatly improved by the introduction of an elective element. He did not think anyone would deny that the Board might be improved by the infusion of such an element, if it were possible to carry out the principle consistently with the other arrangements for the administration of public business in Scotland. But if hon. Members thought out the problem he believed that they must admit that there were great difficulties in achieving that end. If the qualifications of the members of the Board were examined it would, he believed, be found that they combined, so far as it was possible to combine within the limit of four members, representation both of the fishery interest on the one hand and of locality on the other. He thought it combined those two characteristics in a very satisfactory degree. It was said that they ought to extend the elective element, but he would submit to the Committee that the real virtue of the element of election was that they had direct responsibility on the part of the elective body. It was a very difficult problem to know how they could secure for the purpose of one industry in Scotland such a state of things, and if they endeavoured to do so he was afraid they would have a most unwieldy Department. His own view was that the control of the fishery industry and the representative character which should be infused into that control was secured best by such discussions as they were having that day, and by the control of the House of Commons where the representatives of Scotland were to be found. It was by such control as that, although he was sorry that these discussions did not come more frequently, that the end they had in view would be best secured. In regard to the Fishery Board, which was the representative and the guardian of all fishery interests in Scotland, it must not be left out of sight, when they were talking about the trawling interest, that it was a very important one, and had a right to call for the consideration of the Government Department in Scotland equally with the fishermen of other classes. He thought that it would be a bad day for Scotland if the Fishery Board did not keep the strictly impartial attitude which it had hitherto sustained towards the different fishery industries of the country. That led him to the point to which allusion had been made in regard to the sea police. His hon. friend the Member for Ross and Cromarty lamented the fact that they had one cruiser less in recent years, and hoped that they would soon have an increase of the fleet. Questions had been asked him on this subject on more than one occasion recently, and he had assured the House that the Fishery Board had had that point under their consideration, and although their funds were not yet sufficient to provide another cruiser, they hoped, before long, they would be able to do so. Other suggestions had been made, and it was advocated that the vessel now devoted to scientific investigation should be used for police purposes. But those investigations were of great value to the fisheries of Scotland, and, indeed, of the United Kingdom, and he thought that not only Scottish Members but the Committee as a whole would agree that they should endeavour to improve and develop, rather than curtail, scientific investigation. He would be sorry to see a diminution of the funds allotted to this purpose. The vessel in question was being used in the investigations conducted under the North Sea Conference; and those investigations, if persisted in, would be of great benefit. The falling off in the herring-catch, particularly in Orkney and Shetland, had been referred to. But that had been accompanied by an increase in value, which in those islands amounted to £24,000. As to the fines for illegal trawling, at present they went into the Exchequer; but a Bill had been introduced to make them available for the purposes of the Fishery Board, and if there were any general agreement among Scottish Members, the Government would be very glad to pass the Bill into law. With regard to the question of whale fishing, a subject of interest to many hon. Gentlemen, he would not enter into the question of how far whales were or were not responsible for driving away the herring shoals.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY said he did not suggest that. The fishermen liked the live whale; what they disliked was the dead whale.

MR. SINCLAIR thought that, even if that was so, if his hon. friend inquired he would find that was a very controversial question. As a result of a Commission appointed to inquire into the question a Bill was produced by the late Government some three or four years ago. There was great feeling about it then, and there was a strong desire on the part of the late Government to pass the Bill into law. Two or three years elapsed and the herring shoals reappeared, and that had the effect of allaying the agitation against the industry of whale curing. Since the present Government came into office circumstances had again fixed the question on their attention, and, as the result of the consideration given to the matter, he had introduced a Bill founded on similar principles to the Bill introduced by the late Government. A point or two might have to be considered in Committee, but he thought the principle of the Bill would be non-contentious. It was founded on the principle that it was wise, whatever might be the effect of the presence of the whale curing stations, to regulate by means of licence the conditions under which the industry was carried on. He would point out that whale curing was a valuable industry and well worthy of the attention and consideration of the House. He was afraid he was unable to give any hope of a close time for the herring fishery in the waters of the Clyde being successfully established, though it was not for a Government authority to establish it. He was inclined to think the suggestion for the formation of Sea Fishery Committees was more hopeful, though that was attended with difficulties, for the committees contemplated by the Scottish Act of 1895 were of a different character from those existing in England, and the only attempt—made in the Elgin district—to constitute a committee in Scotland fell through because one of the authorities within the area objected. The matter was one which required further legislation before they could make any advance. He was unable to state anything more than he said last year with regard to drift net fishing in the Firth of Forth, and, whilst assuring the Committee that he would give attention to the criticisms as to the sale of gear taken from poaching trawlers, he did not think the existing practice had much appreciable influence in encouraging trawlers to pursue their depredations. He admitted that the Fisheries Board, if they had more money, might do more for the small harbours of Scotland, but reminded the Committee that they were bound in the expenditure of public money to proceed upon some principle, and see that there was a guarantee that it would be useful locally. It was essential that there should be some guarantee that the locality was going to contribute, and at any rate make permanent the benefit conferred by the expenditure of public money. That was the difficulty which stood in the way of doing more in respect of harbours. He believed they would do more by endeavouring to develope and extend the less prosperous districts. The allowances to witnesses for attendance at Court were fixed by Statute, and it was not within the power of himself or the Fishery Board to alter them. The Fishery Board had no right to require the Northern Light Commissioners to help in the work of policing the coast; but where such help was given an allowance of £3 per lighthouse keeper was made.

*Mr. MORTON: Is that on the Estimates.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he was not sure. It must be borne in mind that the lighthouses were under the control not of the Fishery Board, but of the Northern Lights Commissioners, who were responsible for the efficient conduct of the administration—an administration which, of course, was of the highest importance to the country. Therefore, while the Northern Lights Commissioners were ready to do all that they could to help in the matter, they were bound to look after the administration of their own work. It was a matter of grace and courtesy that they helped, and that help was very gratefully received by the Fishery Board, who had no right to require such help from the Commissioners.

*Mr. MORTON: They ought to have; the Northern Lights Commission is a public Board and should be under the control of Parliament.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that would require legislation. There was another matter which his hon. friend the Member for Dumbartonshire had referred to and that was the question of the trawling in Gareloch. That was distinct from the ordinary trawling by a steam trawler; it was trawling of a very modest character carried on within the waters of the Clyde, where trawlers were prohibited from trawling. The Herring Fisheries Act of 1889 prohibited trawling in the Firth of Clyde, but at the time that Act was passed the Fishery Board were urged to make an exemption in favour of small vessels or trawlers which were then in existence in the Clyde, and a by-law was accordingly passed in September, 1889, authorising vessels under a tonnage of eight tons to continue trawling during certain months of the year within the prohibited waters of the Clyde. That concession was granted in the interests of men who were very much of the character of inshore fishermen, who had for a long period earned their livelihood by such trawling, and whose interests, therefore, were thought to be greatly damaged by the passing of the Act of 1889. It would be obvious that that was not a matter of policy, but a temporary expedient or indulgence granted to these men in the year 1889. They were now in the year 1907, and his hon. friend the Member for Dumbartonshire, who took great interest in the matter, had reopened it with energy, backed as he was by the county council and by a very strong local representation, and he must say that he had come to the conclusion that the hon. Member had made out a case of considerable strength for now abrogating or bringing to an end what was admittedly, at the time it was granted, an indulgence or exemption to ease the transition to the change brought about by the Act of 1889. He was able to assure his hon. friend that he thought that he could find a way of bringing the trawling to an end before very long. He could not undertake to suspend it without notice. Even though it was a temporary indulgence he thought it was but fair and reasonable to give some notice to those engaged in the trawling, but he had strong ground for hoping that they would be able in a short time to fix a date at which this trawling should come to an end. An hon. Member had called attention to the experiments with "ramie," but they must see that those experiments were thoroughly carried out and properly tested before they could undertake the responsibility of placing undue reliance on them. He had also mentioned the number of motor boats. He dared say that many of the Members of the Committee were aware that, with the help of experts, three years ago the "Pioneer" was purchased by the Fishery Board. She was fitted as a motor boat on the Danish lines, and a crew having been obtained, she was sent to the fishery where she had been engaged for two seasons, and there was good ground for believing that it had fulfilled its object of giving information to the fishermen. The same boat was to continue its travels and its work for another season, and if any hon. Members were in any of the fishing centres this summer they might come across her. He agreed that there was force in the suggestion that the Departments of the various parts of the United Kingdom should remember that they had certain common interests and should proceed upon parallel if not indentical lines. He heartily concurred in the endeavour to make the Fishery Board as energetic as possible. The hon. Member for Inverness-shire had suggested that the system of Irish loans should be adopted, but he was not sanguine that the method would be acceptable to those they desired to help. He agreed, however, that the question should be kept before them. Two years ago he was member of a Committee under Lord Mansfield, and they examined witnesses in Sutherland and Caithness. If his memory served him rightly, they put forward the Irish system of loans, but he did not think the reception accorded to the suggestion was very encouraging. He agreed, however, that the matter should not be considered once only and dropped. If they could assist men to do better for themselves they should not, because one system was not considered acceptable, abandon hope with regard to the matter. The Member for Wick Burghs, in a most interesting speech on the trawling question, had laid before them the situation, giving an historic retrospect of various Conventions entered into by this country, and had pressed him to go further than he had already done in detailing the position of the Government. He was inclined to think that the field which the hon. Gentleman opened up was one rather more appropriate to the Foreign Secretary than to the Secretary for Scotland.

*SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD: I will raise the question again on the Foreign Office Vote.

MR. SINCLAIR said he was very grateful to Members on both sides for the support given to the attitude taken up by the Scottish Office and Fishery Board in administering the law, and they would endeavour to administer it as it should be administered. He sincerely trusted that the hope expressed by one hon. Member, though it might be a sanguine hope, would be fulfilled: that if they had not already arrived at it, they were in sight of an end of this controversy.

*SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD said if the right hon. Gentleman could state what the position of a foreign trawling vessel which fished in the Firth more than three miles from the shore would be, and could do so without detriment to the public service, it would be of great interest to the Committee.

MR. SINCLAIR said the view of the Scottish Office on this point was best shown by the action they had taken. They had taken action which in some quarters was criticised as too stringent and energetic, while in others it had been spoken of as perfectly proper and wise under the circumstances. That was the best expression he could give of the view entertained by the Scottish Office as to its duty and policy in the matter, and he thanked the hon. Gentleman for not pressing him further on the point. He thought he had dealt with every point that had been raised. There was much to be said for the views which had been expressed by the hon. Member for the Ayr Burghs, but they would require legislation, and, whilst expressing his sympathy with those views he would not like to commit himself to any expression of an intention to introduce such legislation at present. The trawling industry was contributing year by year a large proportion of its earnings in fines for breaking the law. On page 221 of the Fishery Board Report, for instance, they would find that whereas twenty years ago the amount of fines paid was £26, ten years ago it was £445, and last year it was £1,376. He could do nothing without legislation. There were already two Fishery Bills, and, when they had disposed of them, it would be possible to consider what measure they should next bring forward.

Mr. YOUNGER pointed out that the right men should be made to suffer; at present the wrong men were made to suffer.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he sympathised with the view of the hon. Member, but as the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland had suggested, there were other loopholes in the system. The Government had already two Fishery Bills under consideration, and when those had been disposed of they would be able to consider what other measures should be brought forward. He thanked hon. Members for the criticisms they had made, and he assurred them that, so far as he was personally concerned, he fully recognised the value and importance of the control of the House over all public Departments, and he would undertake to see that the effect and influence of their criticisms travelled through him to the Department which had been under discussion.

Mr. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said he desired to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman upon the manner in which he had answered the many difficult Questions put to him. Hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House approved of the recent attitude of the Scottish Office in regard to the Moray Firth, and they hoped that that attitude of firmness would be maintained. If the right hon. Gentleman found it necessary to put an end to the trawl fishing which had been permitted in the narrow waters of the Clyde, he hoped that some compensation would be given to the fishermen who would be deprived of their means of livelihood.

*Mr. MORTON: Compensate those who are breaking the law?

Mr. COCHRANE said he referred to those who fished in the narrow waters such as the small beam trawlers who did so much to spoil line fishing. The hon. Member for Galway City had threatened an invasion of Scottish waters by Irish fishermen, but he could assure his hon. friend that they would be hospitably treated. He noticed that the Secretary for Scotland had stated that legislation for the Irish and the Scottish Fishery Boards should proceed upon similar lines. He wished incidentally to draw attention to two different Bills, one for Scotland introduced by the right hon. Gentleman, and the other for England introduced by his colleague, and he suggested that he should carry out his theory that the two Departments should move on parallel and identical lines. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would consent to withdraw his Bill from the Scottish Committee.

*Mr. MORTON said the right hon. Gentleman had omitted to answer his Questions about meetings of the Fishery Board, and as to why the Chairman of the Fishery Board was allowed to wander about Ireland, and thus neglect important duties in Scotland.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he could assure the hon. Member that there was no foundation whatever for his statement. The Chairman of the Fishery Board was a man of great experience, and his work had not been confined to that Board, for he had been for some years a member of the Congested Districts Board in Scotland, and voluntarily contributed his spare time and leisure to work of that Board, the members of which received no remuneration. Constantly occasions arose in administration when inquiries had to be carried out by other Departments, and such an inquiry was the Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland. The late Chief Secretary had placed before him the great desirability of allowing the Chairman of the Scottish Fishery Board to serve upon that inquiry in Ireland. That Gentleman had been of great assistance to the Royal Commission, and administrative fishery work had in no way suffered by his occasional absence from Scotland. The Scottish Fishery Board met regularly to transact routine and administrative business, and to receive reports from a considerable staff. He had no doubt that full records of the proceedings were kept.

Viscount DALRYMPLE (Wigton) asked whether the coastguards in Scotland were going to be reduced, and, if so, whether other persons would take their place for the purpose of giving information of illegal trawling.

MR. SINCLAIR said he recognised the value of the services of the coastguards. If any change was made, he would take care that the fishery interests did not suffer.

Vote agreed to.

2. £11,086, to complete the sum for the Secretary for Scotland's office.

*MR. WEIR said he wished to direct the attention of the Secretary for Scotland to the insanitary conditions in the Island of Lewis. Why had the right hon. Gentleman been absolutely indifferent to the reports presented by Dr. Dittmar and others on this subject to the Local Government Board? He had on several previous occasions brought this subject before the House, but according to one of the latest reports the state of matters in the island had become so serious as to call for immediate and drastic remedies.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These remarks will be in order on the Vote for the Local Government Board which deals with sanitary matters. It is not competent to discuss this subject on the Vote for the salary of the Secretary for Scotland when there is a specific Vote for the Local Government Board.

*MR. WEIR: The Secretary for Scotland is responsible for all the Departments.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Secretary for Scotland is responsible for a good many Departments. He is responsible for the Fishery Board and the Local Government Board, and he is responsible for education, but when a specific Vote is down for any one of these special subjects all questions must be raised on the particular Vote, and not on the Vote for the salary of the Secretary for Scotland.

*MR. WEIR said he was quite willing to take the matter up at a later stage. As to the work of the Congested Districts Board, the most important duty which that Board was appointed to perform was to settle people on the land. It was because of their failure to carry out that duty that he had thought it necessary to bring the matter forward at present. Up to 31st March last year there had been spent on the purchase of land, and on outlays in connection with development, £175,000. That was spent since 1898 when the Act which created the Board came into operation. The Board had been receiving £35,000 a year. The land settlements which the Board had assisted in effecting were—6 in Argyleshire, 877 in Inverness-shire, 86 in Ross-shire, 23 in Sutherlandshire, 52 in Caithness-shire, and 106 in Orkney and Shetland. That was not satisfactory. The Report showed that there had been an increase of 176 settlers during the past year. The Board was still silent as to the actual number of new holdings created in each county. It was extremely unfair that the Congested Districts Board should arrange for only 6 settlements in Argyleshire while 877 had been arranged in Inverness-shire, and only 86 in Ross-shire, which included the most congested areas in the Highlands. He was not at all surprised the hon. Member for Inverness-shire was satisfied with the working of the Board. It seemed as if the Board had been specially provided to benefit Inverness-shire. They might be told that the Board would be absorbed by the new authority to be created under the Small Landholders Bill. He doubted that very much indeed. In view of the rate at which the Committee upstairs were proceeding with the Bill his fear was that the Congested Districts Board would go on for a good many years yet. It appeared to him that there was a lack of energy on the part of the Board. Why should so much have been done in Inverness-shire and so little in other counties? The position of Secretary was unsatisfactory and was filled by a clerk in the Exchequer Office who was unable to devote the necessary amount of time to the work. There should have been a special man appointed, and he did not think the work would be properly done until they had a Secretary devoting his whole time to it. The thirty-two houses which the Board had provided at Aignish were in a deplorable condition in wet weather, the roofs not being rainproof.

A water supply had not been provided by the Board in connection with some of the townships. The right hon. Gentleman visited the district in company with the gentleman who was responsible for this unsatisfactory work. He himself would have been delighted to have gone round with the right hon. Gentleman at his own expense. In Ross-shire many of the crofters had to bring up their families under the most insanitary conditions; and it was impossible to say how many deaths occurred in consequence of the imperfect construction of the houses. Out of £192,000 which had been spent by the Congested Districts Board on land schemes Ross-shire had received only £9,000. He insisted that that was unfair, because it was supposed that the grant had been made for carrying out the work of improving the condition of the Highland crofting counties generally, and to assist the people to settle on the land. The Committee was entitled to know how many people had been settled on the land in Ross and Cromarty. The condition of the houses in Lewis was awful, and he was sorry that hon. Members representing other Scottish constituencies did not go round and see these houses for themselves. Skye, under the Crofters Act, was a very different island from what it was thirty or forty years ago. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland would see that there was some improvement made in regard to the housing in Lewis. In the Aiguish Settlement there were, he could assure the right hon. Gentleman, no conveniences, no drainage, no water supply. He was surprised that the Secretary of Scotland should not have insisted on a proper supply of water to this township. Not only were improved houses required, but he would again call attention to the necessity for suitable fences being placed around deer forests to prevent the deer coming down from the forests early in the morning and eating up the crops of the crofters. As to the position of the fishing population, something should be done to improve it. He believed that two steamers had been put on the West coast of Ross-shire and Sutherlandshire as an experiment to convey the fish-catch to the nearest railway, but that was only for a few short months of the year. One steamer had been taken off, but he hoped the experiment would be continued.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland) attacked the action of the Congested Districts Board and said he did not think the Secretary for Scotland would get any good out of it. He knew that there was a Bill before the Scottish Grand Committee which proposed to do away with the Board, but it had not yet passed, and it was their duty to try and make the best of what they had. It appeared to him, however, that under the present system of the Congested Districts Board people were to be punished for voting Liberal at the last general election. That was the policy which had been carried out in Sutherlandshire during the last twelve months in spite of the efforts of the right hon. Gentleman to lead the Board in the right direction, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree with him that the proper course was to get rid of the Board altogether. He complained that the steamer "Nightingale" which ran to Lochinver, Loch Clash, had been taken off in spite of the fact that on 26th February, 1906, he was assured by the Secretary for Scotland that there was no truth whatever in the rumour that the vessel was to be transferred to another route, although the service was experimental, and it was hoped that it would be useful. The Congested Districts Board, however, had removed the vessel from the service; it was believed that it was an electioneering dodge to put it on, but it was hoped that the experiment would be continued for a longer period. He wished to back up the Secretary for Scotland in regard to the ill-treatment which he had received, because after he had announced that there was no intention of taking the boat off it was taken off. The incident, however, showed the sort of treatment that they got from the Congested Districts Board. He did not know the amount of money which the Congested Districts Board had spent in Sutherlandshire, but he was certain that it had been wasted, and that they had purchased land at a preposterous price and had thereby made it almost impossible for the settlers to keep up the repayments. He understood that one of the duties which the Congested Districts Board undertook was the supply of seed potatoes, but in the case of the people of Durness when they wrote for a supply of seed potatoes in order that they might improve their growth, the Board wrote in a most contemptuous manner and refused to supply them. The same sort of treatment had been meted out to other districts in which the people were willing to pay, as in the case of Durness, for the seed potatoes or oats to improve their crops. A Liberal Government, however, had in regard to this matter made a most extraordinary statement to the effect that they could not go further because if they did it would be setting up a system of municipal trading. He did not know that it was the duty of the Liberal Government to protest against municipal trading, but at all events that was the only reply that they could make. Then in regard to the supply of water in certain districts the Board would do nothing whatever, and he would like the right hon. Gentleman to give the House some information as to why it was that the Congested Districts Board refused to make inquiry as to whether there was a proper supply of drinking water. The Mansfield Commission recommended certain reforms, but nothing had resulted from their recommendations. Another matter which the Board might deal with, but which it had not done hitherto, was the maintenance of main roads. One of the first things that it was necessary to do in these outlying districts was to give the people better means of communication, and to make such improvements as would enable the people to live. But that was just what the Congested Districts Board did not do. The Prime Minister's policy was to colonise our own country, and one of the first necessities of new colonies was decent roads. He wished to know why money could not be spent on improving the main roads of Sutherlandshire. They could not expect to get even light railways there because it was very doubtful whether they would pay. But with the start of the motor car business it had been found possible to give great assistance in the shape of taking the produce to market and to the railway stations by motor cars. These motor cars were likely to be of great use to Sutherlandshire. Nearly all the mails in the country were now carried by motor car, and they would be able to get along in much less time but for the fact that the roads were not good enough. If they took the road from Bonar Bridge to John o' Groats——

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said he did not think that that was a subject for the Congested Districts Board. The powers of the Board were restricted to dealing with the congested districts, and the hon. Member must confine his observations to these districts.

*MR. MORTON said he did not know that he could say off-hand what parts of these roads were in the congested districts. But there were certainly some of the main roads in the congested districts and he would refer to them. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would carry out the promise of the Prime Minister, and assist them in that matter. Assistance had been given to other parts of Scotland, and it ought to be given to this. It was no use asking the county council to do it. They had not the money. There were some matters to which he could refer on the question of the salary of the right hon. Gentleman. For instance, there were the deer forests and many other matters concerning the welfare and comfort of the people. This Liberal Government was pledged to the eyes to do something for the masses. It was not charity that was wanted, but an opportunity of making use of our own country for our own people. He personally was sorry that greater interest was not taken in Scottish local matters by Scottish Members. The right hon. Gentleman, however, would see the importance, not only to Sutherlandshire but also to adjoining counties, of getting these matters attended to, not only from a political point of view but from the point of view of keeping the already dwindling population on the land and getting, by means of colonisation, more people upon it. If the right hon. Gentleman would turn his attention to this matter he would not only do a good turn to the people now living on the land but to thousands of other people who were now living in the towns, but who could live under much better conditions in places like Sutherlandshire where, though the people were poor, there was no such squalid poverty as was found in the towns.

*MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs) said he wished to bring to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman a very serious grievance that was felt by the people in the South of Scotland, namely, the action of the proprietors of the land on the banks of the Tweed and other rivers in shutting up those waters and preventing the people having access to the riverside. That was a grievance which had not arisen during the time of the late proprietors, who were familiar with the sentiments of the people, but was due to the new proprietors, who came with new ideas of the rights and privileges of landlords. It was a very serious matter. The upper waters of the Tweed were entirely closed for trout fishing, but that was not the most serious part. People were not now allowed to walk on the banks of these rivers. He was recently in one of the most beautiful parts of the Tweed when he was startled to find in front of him a notice board upon which was "Fishing in the river Tweed is strictly preserved and trespassers will be prosecuted, by the order of the proprietors." That was at a spot at which he had fished from his boyhood. Now he found he was not only debarred from fishing, but from setting foot on one of the most beautiful walks in Scotland. The people were now turned from the river banks, where nobody had ever done any harm. There were several yards of land on each side of the river along which people could walk, and in time past these walks had been a source of great pleasure and recreation to them. Now they were all forced into the road, where they were exposed to the discomfort and danger from the numbers of motors which rushed past. The prohibition imposed by the proprietors was felt very keenly, especially all over the South of Scotland; and much as the people of Scotland were interested in the Small Holdings Bill, they were far more keenly interested in this matter, which was the great topic of conversation. The taking away of access to the riversides was a very serious thing, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see into the matter, in order that they might restore the old state of things.

MR. SINCLAIR said the hon. Gentlemen who had just sat down had alluded to a question which was creating very strong feeling in Scotland, especially in the South. Obviously it was not a question of legal right, but one of use and wont; it was a question of the sudden taking away of a privilege which had been freely given for many years, and had been greatly valued and enjoyed by the people who had benefited by it. There was no doubt that the situation which had been created was a complicated and anxious one, and he sincerely hoped that some way out might be found. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that the subject was causing the Government some anxiety, and they were giving the closest possible consideration to it. There was to be a deputation to the Prime Minister on Wednesday, June 5th, and he thought that the hon. Member would agree that it would be best that he should not anticipate any statement that might be made on that occasion; but he could assure the Committee, as he had already said, that the question was under close consideration by the Scottish Office and by the Prime Minister himself. The hon. Members for Sutherland and for Ross and Cromarty had criticised the administration of the Congested Districts Board. As the Committee were aware, the position of the Board was affected bylegislative proposals which were under consideration in Committee upstairs. He was never sorry when the question of the congested districts was brought forward, because there were no districts in Scotland which were more deserving of sympathetic consideration by Parliament. The case was a difficult one administratively. These districts were outlying districts of the country, and the burden of carrying on local administration fell very heavily on the sparse population. His own belief was that the real remedies were indirect remedies, for it was found that many of the evils were traceable to the paucity of population. The administrative authorities must be assisted by legislative opportunity of increasing the population of those districts, and that could only be done gradually as the years went on. His hon. friend the Member for Ross and Cromarty had alluded to the sanitary condition of Lewis, which was open in some respects to great improvement. The question was one which had had to be faced by successive Governments for many years; it presented complications and perplexities, and they could only hope to make gradual progress. There was no complaint to be made, speaking generally, of the local authorities. It was only through the local authorities that the Central Department could hope to act. The Congested Districts Board had done its best. He did not say that the Board, any more than any other board, were not open to criticism, but it must always be remembered that they did their work under great difficulties. The Board had been the pioneers in this work, which they had carried on at very little cost to the public, and they had undoubtedly done very useful work in advancing the material and economic interests of the people with whom they had to deal. He might instance the erection of houses, a work to which they had contributed. The experiments had been on the whole good. He would not say that they were satisfactory in every respect, but they had been *bona fide* efforts to help the people to help themselves. The efforts had been responded to locally, and it was by preserving the balance of effort that they did not allow reasonable help to degenerate into what might be demoralising rather than helpful to the people. He agreed that the sanitary condition of Lewis certainly left something to be desired. He would greatly like to find some way of seconding the efforts of the local authority and to cause matters to make some advance. A considerable advance had been made in the water supply. A number of new wells had been sunk, but, as he had said, there was room for improvement and he hoped that that improvement would be made. He could assure his hon. friend that no question which came before the Scottish Office exercised them more than the difficulty of finding a useful and possible way of helping forward this work. He was not without hope that by the time the Estimates came round for discussion another year the Government might be able to take a more definite step in the direction indicated. The retirement of the superintendent of engineering had been possible without any sacrifice of efficiency, and there was now another gentleman superintending the engineering work who had worked for a long time in that department, and was now responsible for the works department. With regard to the operation of the Congested Districts Board, they had settled on the land 600 crofters by the method of tenancies and 230 by purchase. The settlement of the people upon the land was about the most valuable work they could do, because it was the foundation for all the work which followed it. The Report which had been issued described, for the information of the Committee, the various ways in which the money of the Congested Districts Board was spent and the direction of their energies. With regard to what had been said about the deer forest area, he desired to inform the Committee that another Return was in course of preparation which would be forthcoming almost immediately, and it would show the land devoted to deer forests and sport, not only in the deer forest area, but throughout Scotland. The fencing-off of crofts to protect them from the depredations of deer was a matter with which he entirely sympathised. As for the Mansfield Commission, it was not necessary for him to defend its work, and it would be more to the point to find out whether any useful experience had been gained by the carrying out of its recommendations. He thought the paragraphs in the Report dealing with the question of steamers and motor-car traffic showed that while the experience gained might have been bought rather dearly, it had been of some value. The steamer referred to by tho hon. Member for Sutherlandshire was an experiment, and it had failed to draw that amount of local support which was considered necessary in order to repeat it. The distributions of seed potatoes by the Board had been criticised. The Congested Districts Board had occasionally sent consignments of seed potatoes, but the Board had learnt by experience that it was unwise to enter into competition with the ordinary traders in distributing goods of this kind. With regard to main roads, although the whole question was one which might require serious consideration, he pointed out that their up-keep lay with the county authorities. This was no doubt a question which would have to be very seriously considered, but it would have to be considered as affecting the whole country, and he was sorry to say, in reply to the hon. Member for Sutherland, that it was not possible for the Congested Districts Board to take any steps in the direction he had suggested. He did not think the Congested Districts Board had any power to give assistance to light railways. As for the water supply, that was a matter for the local authority, and the essence of the principle of local government was to make sure that the money spent was in accordance with local needs and requirements. They could not run the risk of the extravagance which would be sure to ensue if they departed from that principle. He knew what the burden of administration was in some districts, and he hoped as time went on they might be able to ameliorate the conditions.

*Mr. MORTON asked whether it was not somebody's duty to advise the local authority that the water supply should be attended to? He understood that Mr. Carnegie and the Duke of Sutherland had offered to contribute.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he would look into the matter if his hon. friend would give him particulars.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE said the right hon. Gentleman knew the views which were held in regard to the fisheries in the Tweed and Loch Ness. He hoped something would be done to effect the changes which were desired.

Sir J. JARDINE expressed his great pleasure at the attitude of the Government with regard to the salmon fisheries in the South of Scotland. The inhabitants of the Scottish border counties had experienced that hope deferred which made the heart sick, and two Commissions had sat on the question. That the subject was now receiving the sympathetic attention of the Prime Minister would be a great satisfaction to the people of the southern counties.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON said that he and some other hon. Members desired to refer to the question of prison administration in Scotland, but owing to the way in which the business had been arranged it was doubtful whether they would have an opportunity of discussing that subject unless the right hon. Gentleman could promise two or three hours on another day later in the session. Reference had been made to the question of trout fishing in the Tweed, and, inasmuch as that was a matter which required legislation, he understood that it could not be discussed on the Estimates. He might be allowed to say that he was glad that the Government were taking the matter into consideration, and he hoped they would do their utmost to see that the fishing was preserved for the largest possible number of people. He knew that the methods of fishing which were adopted by some people were the very reverse of sportsmanlike—particularly fishing by the use of dynamite and salmon roe—and he hoped some means would be devised whereby people who wanted a fair day's fishing would be able to enjoy it with the hope of a good day's sport, which was impossible if such practices were to continue. The Government would command general support if they could devise effective means for preventing the enjoyment of the many being spoiled by the abuses of a few. The right hon. Gentleman had informed the House that careful inquiries had been made, and the opinions of certain eminent gentlemen taken, in regard to the provisions contained in the Small Landholders Bill. Was the cost of those inquiries included in this Vote, and, if not, under what head would they be charged? The Government had announced that they had decided to give £100,000 to provide elementary schools in England, and that the amount would be paid out of the Consolidated Fund. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would take care that Scotland got an equivalent grant for any moneys granted for the purposes of elementary education in England. He would point out that Ireland enjoyed a very much larger share of the equivalent grants than Scotland, and while he did not say that Ireland was not deserving of grants, he maintained that that country did not deserve much larger shares than were given to Scotland.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: We cannot discuss these matters now. They come up under the Irish Votes, but they are not relevant to this Vote.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said he did not wish to press the point. In putting claims before the Treasury, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would insist that Scotland should have a fair share of the equivalent grants.

*MR. WEIR said that they should take into consideration the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and especially the Island of Lewis. This was not a new question, as the House very well knew. It was admitted on all hands that something should be done for that island. It had been said that things were not so bad there as had been represented, but if the Secretary for Scotland depended on those assurances he was leaning on a broken reed. Even the few hours which the Secretary for Scotland had spent last autumn in the Island of Lewis must have convinced him how bad was the condition of everything there. He was very glad to have had the assurance as to a Return of the deer forest area in the Highlands; but he asked the right hon. Gentleman to see that that Report was not prepared by Mr. Dundas, a Crown lawyer, who had prepared the last Return. That Return was so inaccurate and so faulty that the Government had to throw it aside and get another prepared. Even the second one was inaccurate. A carefully prepared and accurate Return should be made.

MR. SINCLAIR said that the hon. Member for North West Lanarkshire had asked if there was to be a special inquiry in regard to the fishing question, but that could not take place at present. As to the Votes which should be discussed, he was entirely in the hands of hon. Gentlemen opposite and of other Scottish Members. Certain Votes were put down for discussion one year and others in another year, and he believed that that was for the convenience of the Committee.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said that he wished to ask the Secretary for Scotland a question as to Item 8:—Expenses under the Inebriates Act. He noticed that those expenses had increased by 35 per cent. [Cries of "Oh, oh."] He was not surprised that hon. Gentlemen were astonished at that, because he understood that they had in Scotland not only Sunday closing but early closing. If the only result of Sunday closing and early closing in Scotland was to increase the cost of inebriates, he, as an English Member, ventured to say that they did not want those advantages extended to England.

*MR. MORTON said he wished to join the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty in urging on the Secretary for Scotland the necessity of doing something to induce the landlords in the Highlands to fence their properties so as to prevent the deer coming down from the forests and raiding the crofters' crops. He asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had further inquired into the Kimbrace case, when the farm-houses were blown up by dynamite and the farms including arable land were attached to an adjoining deer forest. He (Mr. Morton) was assured that the right hon. Gentleman who, in reply to a Question last autumn, rather questioned the fact, must have been misled by the landlord's agent. The statement in his (Mr. Morton's) question was absolutely correct. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would, in looking properly after Scottish interests, take care that the proper equivalent grant was secured for Scotland. It used to be a settled principle that England was to get 80 per cent. of the equivalent grant, Scotland 11 per cent., and Ireland 9 per cent., and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see that that 11 per cent. for Scotland was forthcoming. They were not obliged to spend it on the same objects as in England or Ireland, but they were entitled to have the 11 per cent., and must have it sooner or later.

MR. SINCLAIR said he could assure his hon. friend that he would do all in his power to safeguard the interests of Scotland in the matter of the equivalent grant as in all other respects. Replying to the hon. Baronet opposite, he said the increased expenditure on inebriate homes was not due, as he suggested, to Sunday closing. It was due to a very laudable desire in Scotland to develope and extend the curative treatment of those suffering from the affliction of inebriety.

Vote agreed to.

3. £10,887, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board for Scotland.

*MR. WEIR called attention to the inadequacy of the number of medical inspectors in Scotland. There was but one medical inspector for the whole of Scotland, and it was a physical impossibility for any one man to do the work. The Highland counties alone would occupy one man. They had had one very valuable Report on the subject from Dr. Dittmar, who was sent down to the Lewes by the late Lord-Advocate, Mr. Scott Dickson. He was not going to allow that Report to be shunted until something was done to improve the sanitary and medical condition of the islands. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman would say that he had not got the money, but he should apply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Treasury, and insist on having it for this very necessary purpose. Why did not the Secretary for Scotland adopt the policy of the Admiralty, and insist upon having money which was necessary? It was the duty of the Government to see that the needs of the country were properly attended to. He hoped to receive an assurance that additional medical inspectors would be appointed, because with only one man engaged upon that task, nearly half of Scotland was left without inspection. Dr. Dittmar reported that in the Lewes the problem seemed quite insoluble unless there was more expenditure by the State. There were, the doctor said, no outhouses, no water, and no drainage; but instead of going forward in regard to those matters the Government were going back. In his Report Dr. Dittmar described a case in which a man was dying of phthisis in one living room surrounded by his wife and children and a number of animals. Dr. Dittmar dealt with many other cases and said the state of the islands could only be described as "appalling." Yet the right hon. Gentleman accepted the statement of the local authority who said that all was well. Dr. Dittmar alluded to people being housed in foul dens not fit for pigs and complained of the risk of typhoid through impure water. The Local Government Board knew all about these matters and yet they neglected to take the question up and deal with it. The sanitary condition of the Island of Lewis was so bad that he had never seen anything like it in his life. For years he had brought this matter before the attention of the Scottish Office, and he had been constantly told that they had no official information in regard to it. For that reason he thanked God that they now had this Report from Mr. Scott Dickson. The Government now had official data and, therefore, he asked the right hon. Gentleman to insist that this district should be put into a sanitary condition. The Report suggested that the Local Government Board should be called upon to enforce and carry out the provisions of the Public Health Act. Yet the Local Government Board had done very little to improve the condition of the Island of Lewis. The Report further suggested the appointment of an energetic medical officer of health with a sufficient staff of trained inspectors. That was two years ago. How much longer were they to wait before any notice was taken of those recommendations? It was not in the least satisfactory for him to draw attention to these matters and then to be told they must move slowly. They were not moving at all, and it was because of that fact that he was justified in complaining that, with such a Report as that before them for two years, the Scottish Office had done nothing whatever. Two years ago notice was given that where cattle were housed in dwellings a substantial wall should be built between that part of the house and the part used for the dwelling and that there should be no communication between the two from the inside, and it was not until 31st July 1906, that they were informed that 100 houses had been altered in accordance with the notice issued in 1905. There were 3,000 houses left untouched. Why were those houses left untouched? They were left untouched, according to the Local Government Board Report, because the 3,000 holders who occupied them were disinclined to make the necessary alterations until they saw what the result of the legislation with regard to small holdings was going to be. The Small Holdings Bill of last year hardly saw the light. It was throttled at its birth, and it looked as if the Bill now before the House was going to be throttled also. He wanted the Government to have the honour and glory of doing something for the Island of Lewis. They had now a magnificent opportunity. All they had wanted was these Reports and they had now got them, and he hoped that, that being so, the Government would seize this opportunity and do something in their day and generation to put these things straight and confer a lasting benefit on these poor people. The medical department of the Local Government Board of Scotland appeared to be most anxious to improve the state of things in Lewis. Urgent action was required if effective progress was to be made, and there must be more energetic action on the part of the local authority and a reorganisation of the executive system. If the right hon. Gentleman looked to the Report of the Local Government Board he would see the condition of things there described. Amongst other things the Local Government Board, referring to Dr. Dittmar's Report, said—

> "The state of matters revealed was so serious as to seem to call for immediate and drastic remedies,"

and added—

> "A copy of this Report was sent to the Lewis District Committee for their immediate attention on the 23rd September, 1905. We pointed out that the Report revealed a state of matters requiring urgent action on their part, and that we must insist on effective measures being taken to deal with the various nuisances specified in detail in the Report. We further pointed out that in our view no effective progress could be made without more energetic action on the part of the Local Authority and reorganisation of the Executive System, and that after very full consideration of the whole circumstances we have come to the conclusion that the present condition of affairs in the Lewes cannot be allowed to continue."

They were told that this was a most pressing and urgent question; he would say that it was a burning question, which ought to be at once dealt with, and that they should not adopt a rest-and-be-thankful attitude. It was very annoying to have to bring these things forward time after time and that nothing should be done. If hon. Members visited Lewis they would see for themselves the state of matters; and before going they should read this invaluable Report, for the Island of Lewis was the worst part of the Empire from a sanitary point of view. They were in the unfortunate position of having no medical officer there now. The island had 31,000 people upon it, yet they were left without a medical officer. The last holder of the position retired some months ago on account of age, and since then apparently no steps had been taken to fill the position. Had they to wait until some young man had been to college and trained for the position? Was the local authority going to wait for some young man to be qualified for the post? Was the right hon. Gentleman going to stand that sort of conduct? Was he going to allow things to go on another year? But the 31,000 people of Lewis were not going to wait until a young man had been brought up to the work; they wanted a medical officer now. The right hon. Gentleman trusted the local authority, but he was trusting a broken reed, and he sincerely hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give attention to this matter, and not allow it to go on from year to year. He would take every opportunity that was presented by the Rules of the House to bring this matter forward; he expected something to be done, and that the 31,000 people, so far removed from the mainland, should not be left to be treated in this way. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would abandon his faith in the local authority, and see that there was more energy and more life thrown into the work of the office at Edinburgh. He was not blaming the medical department; he believed that the medical department was splendidly conducted; but he found that the chief of the Local Government Board in Edinburgh had come to London to attend the Poor Law Commission. Was there not enough work in Edinburgh for that gentleman? Why was the chief of the Local Government Board in Edinburgh running about London in connection with the Poor Law Commission? Two days to come up and two days to go down—it was not fair to Scotland. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to take some steps to see that there was more energy put into the work, and that there was more money obtained from the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which to do it. As a patriot, a Britisher, and a true Imperialist he would be ashamed for any foreigner to go to the Island of Lewis in its present disgraceful condition.

MR. WATT said he desired to call attention to the irregularity of the inspection of meat in Scotland. Instructions in consonance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission which sat in 1898 were carried out to the letter in some localities in Scotland, whilst other districts were in the habit of ignoring altogether the instructions of the Local Government Board upon the subject. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree with him that that was a wrong state of things. It was absolutely necessary that the Local Government Board should be more strict in regard to the chilled meat imported from America. He believed that Germany and France would not permit the importation of chilled meat at all. In his opinion there ought to be a head inspector appointed to overlook the inspection of meat for the whole of Scotland.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY agreed that a great deal might be done to improve the arrangements for the inspection of meat in Scotland. He also urged that there should be a reserve of medical officers qualified to take up the duties of medical inspectors. If it were true that the Island of Lewis had been without a medical officer for some time and was still without one it was a state of things which ought to remedied at once in view of the fact that the Island of Lewis contained 31,000 inhabitants. He could quite understand that it was not possible to improve the water supply where a convenient source of supply was not available, and it was difficult to arrange a drainage scheme in a valley where there was nothing but mountains around. Nevertheless, he did not think a far-off island with a population of 31,000 inhabitants ought to be left in the lurch in regard to the appointment of a medical officer as the Island of Lewis appeared to have been.

MR. GULLAND said he was glad to notice that the deaths from consumption in the year 1905 were only 5,316 as compared with 6,151 in the previous year. He hoped that diminution would continue. A circular had been issued asking for the compulsory notification of the disease, and Edinburgh had been the first to adopt such a regulation. Considerable improvement had been effected by the steps taken by local authorities to prevent the spread of consumption. He hoped that everything possible would be done to induce all local authorities to take preventive measures against the disease. Many local authorities by establishing different kinds of hospitals were meeting with great success in the treatment of this terrible scourge in its earlier stages. Infantile mortality was still too great. The Report contained many interesting recommendations. Some of them could only be carried out by legislation, but there were others which could be carried out by administration. He hoped the Local Government Board would do what they could to increase the number of women sanitary inspectors and visitors. By that means, great help could be given in reducing the infantile mortality which was such a serious matter. As to the law with respect to rights of way, he hoped something would be done by legislation to remove the difficulty which sometimes arose in deciding the difference between a public way and a right of way.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said the Unemployed Workmen Act provided for the setting up of distress committees. A distress committee had two functions —first, to provide relief work; and, secondly, to set up labour exchanges for the purpose of assisting any man who wished to obtain work from an ordinary employer at his ordinary trade. The only relief committee which had set up a labour exchange in Scotland was that in Edinburgh. That committee strongly recommended that the standard rate of wages applicable to each occupation should be paid to workmen engaged through the municipal exchange. The Local Government Board disapproved of that recommendation. He wished to ask whether the Government approved of the action of the Local Government Board.

SIR J. JARDINE asked whether by any administrative means the right hon. Gentleman could make the practice in Scotland in connection with traction engines conform to that which had existed in England for seven years at least in regard to the "third man." This was a matter of extreme importance to farmers and tradesmen living in counties near the border, because inconvenience arose from the law in the two countries being different.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars), in reference to the question asked by the hon. Member for North-West Lanarkshire, said the Labour representatives believed that the authority set up under the Unemployed Workmen Act should not enter into unfair competition with trade unions, and that they should do nothing to take advantage of the economic dependence of the unemployed to reduce wages either in Edinburgh or elsewhere. He reminded the hon. Member that when the Unemployed Workmen Bill was passing through this House the shortcomings to which the hon. Member had alluded were pointed out to the Government of the Party of which he was a member. They were urged to adopt measures with the object of preventing the distress committees from taking advantage of unemployed workmen, but they refused to give heed to the representations which were made by those who had special knowledge of the dangers. He did not believe that any good would come from the operations of the distress committees in connection with the registration of unemployed workmen unless a far more comprehensive scheme was introduced. To register names and excite hopes which could not be realised seemed to him to be absolute cruelty. He was in favour of anything being done that could be done to prevent men walking long distances in search of work. He expressed the hope that the Government through the agency of the Local Government Board, or whatever might be the proper authority, would see to it that, if the Act was not of much advantage, it would not be used to the disadvantage of workmen. The trade unions in the industrial centres of Scotland were the natural custodians of the interests of labour, and efforts were always being made by them to set up something like standard conditions as to hours and wages. That work was sometimes attended with great difficulty owing to the margin of unemployed. He thought they had a right to object to the reduction of the standard rate of wages secured through the action of trade unions.

*MR. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central) said he understood that the amount of money allocated to Scotland from the Unemployed Fund was £4,000, and that the grant to Glasgow was fixed at £1,000, and the grant to Aberdeen at £200. He asked why it was that the labour exchange in Edinburgh had not received any benefit from that grant, although there were 1,500 men unemployed on their books, or more proportionately than in any other place in Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR said the hon. Member for Central Edinburgh might take it from him that that city had been treated perfectly fairly. Perhaps the reason why the labour exchange of Edinburgh did not get a share of the grant was that it was believed that the unemployed committee of that city were able to get on by themselves, and did not require to be pampered from the outside. He could assure the hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division that there had been no efforts made to do anything which would tend to the reduction of the standard rate of wages. He was sorry that there was no opportunity at present to discuss the Unemployed Act, which, he thought, was a most incomplete piece of legislation; but the Scottish Local Government Board had every desire to make full use of the limited powers contained in the Act. The hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty was perfectly right in taking that opportunity of trying to criticise the action of the Government in regard to the Island of Lewis. He could assure his hon. friend that the Government admitted the sad condition of the island, and he hoped his hon. friend would not think it necessary to put in antagonism the views of the Government and the views of the local authorities and his own views. He could assure him that they were all of one mind, and he hoped that as time went on they would be able to bring about some improvement in the condition of the island, and to relieve the burden on the rates. As to education, if there was need of an additional inspector for the Island of Lewis, and if the case was put before the Board of Education, the matter would be considered. He promised to look into the matter of improving the arrangements for the inspection of meat in Scotland. He could assure the hon. Member for Dumfries Burghs that the Government were alive to the importance of inducing local authorities to take further preventive measures against consumption. They had also in view the preservation of rights of way. The question raised by the hon. Member for Roxburgh as to traction engines would be inquired into. He had, he thought, dealt with all the points raised in the discussion, but there were other points which hon. Members wanted to raise on other Votes, and he appealed to the Committee to allow this Vote now to be taken.

*MR. MORTON complained that Scotland did not get a fair share of the Unemployed Fund, and said they ought to receive £22,000 instead of the £10,000 which they were told by the Government was all they were entitled to receive. He had never been able to obtain any satisfactory explanation of that statement. It appeared to him that the Local Government Board in Scotland was a sort of school of mutual admiration. They had only received the Report on this matter yesterday morning, and it was impossible for anybody outside a lunatic asylum to pretend that they could read or consider it in the time.

MR. SINCLAIR said he could assure the hon. Gentleman that Scotland had obtained all the money necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act, and the needs of the country had been completely met. When they came to other Estimates he thought he would be able to convince the hon. Member that the administration of the Act had been very well carried out.

*MR. WEIR said the right hon. Gentleman seemed to suppose that everybody was satisfied in Scotland, but that was not the case in the Lewes. But what could be expected from a Tory landlord and county council.

Vote agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £3,799, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Lunacy in Scotland."

*MR. MORTON objected to any attempt being made to rush this Vote through. It was a very important one, and it was a Department which hon. Members opposite should be much interested in.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at two minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 31*st May*, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tees Conservancy Bill [Lords]. As amended, to be considered upon Friday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP F).

Mr. Nussey reported from the Committee on Group F of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Forres, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Two Petitions from Newton in Makerfield, against; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against; from Lincoln and Plymouth; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (PLAGUE).

Return [presented 30th May] to be printed. [No. 169.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3808 and 3809 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1899 (RETREATS).

Copy presented, of Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February, 1907, for the Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 170.]

MERCANTILE MARINE (SIGHT TESTS).

Copy presented,—of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Sight Tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Copy presented,—of Sixth Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented,—of Report of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 24th April; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Halifax Telegraph Staff.

Mr. PARKER (Halifax): To ask the Postmaster-General whether expert male telegraphists of many years experience at Halifax have been compelled to perform sorting duties owing to alleged decline in telegraph work; whether an advertismeent appeared in the Post Office Circular of 14th May, 1907, for three female telegraphists to be attached to the Halifax staff; and, if so, whether the Postmaster-General will explain the reason for compelling male telegraphists to leave their own work for the reason of telegraphic decrease whilst adding to the staff by the number of three women.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I informed the hon. Member in December last of the circumstances which rendered it impracticable to allot a full day's telegraph work to each of the male sorting clerks and telegraphists at Halifax who, before 1896, were employed mainly on telegraph work. Those circumstances remain unchanged. The three additional female sorting clerks and telegraphists are required for working the call wires in connection with trunk telephone circuits, a duty which is never assigned to the male staff, and which does not form part of the ordinary telegraph work of the office.

South-West London Postal District—Vacancy for Overseer.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether a vacancy exists in the class of overseers in the south-western district, London, in connection with the telegraphists attached to the Admiralty; and, if so, in view of the stagnation in promotion, whether steps will be taken to fill the vacancy.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am in communication with the Admiralty on the subject.

Drainage of Kingston Barracks.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the reconstruction of the drainage at Kingston Barracks has yet been started upon; if so, how much of the work has already been carried out; and whether the soldiers are still forced to use urinal tubs, which have to be removed by hand.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The drainage is still under reconstruction, and has not yet been completed. In the meantime the temporary arrangements mentioned for the use of urinal tubs at night must be continued.

Rating of Woolwich Arsenal.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, having regard to the fact that the value of War Office land, buildings, and machinery at the Ordnance Factories at Woolwich was £2,272,320 on 31st March, 1906, according to the accounts of the Royal Ordnance Factories, whether he can state what sum was paid in rates in respect of these factories in the past financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The amount paid for rates in respect of the Ordnance Factories at Woolwich for the past financial year was £17,855. The figure given by the hon. Member (£2,272,320) as the capital value on 31st March, 1906, of the Ordnance Factories at Woolwich includes also the factories at Enfield, Waltham, and Birmingham.

Fusel Oil.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the amount per proof gallon that imported plain spirit contains of amylic alcohol (fusel oil); whether he is aware that this spirit never matures, and is said to be sold, coloured and flavoured, to represent brandy, rum, and British distillations; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will take any steps, by legislation, to prevent this.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Board of Customs inform me that imported plain spirits are not examined with reference to the amount of fusel oil that may be present and that they have no information on the subject. They have no knowledge of such spirits being sold, coloured, and flavoured to represent brandy, rum, and British distillations subsequent to delivery out of official custody.

Conveyance of Mails to Carndonagh and Clonmany.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state how much is paid the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company for the conveyance of mails to Carndonagh and Clonmany; if he is aware that dissatisfaction exists in these towns and districts owing to the late arrival and delivery of letters; and what steps, if any, he proposes taking in the matter.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General what was the time of arrival and delivery of letters in Carndonagh, Culdaff, and Malin Head, county Donegal, Ireland, on the mornings of the 17th to the 25th, both dates inclusive, of the present month, together with the time of arrival and delivery of letters in Buncrana and Moville, neighbouring towns, on same dates; and if he can state how much was paid for conveyance of letters per mail cars to Carndonagh and Clonmany, and the time of arrival and delivery of letters previous to the opening of the railway from Buncrana to Carndonagh.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am endeavouring to arrange for the earlier running of the train which conveys the mails to Carndonagh and Clonmany; and when I have made inquiry on the particular points referred to by the hon. Member I will communicate with him.

Appointments to Board of Agriculture Messengerships.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, how many appointments have been made to permanent messengerships since January, 1906, at the Board of Agriculture; and what was the occupation of the individual men prior to appointment.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) No appointments have been made to permanent messengerships in the Board of Agriculture since January, 1906.

Income-Tax paid on Incomes of less than £700 per annum.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the approximate average rate of income-tax paid by persons earning less than £700 per annum.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) As no general distinction has hitherto been made for the purposes of income-tax between "earned" and "unearned" incomes, there are no statistics upon which a calculation of this kind could be based.

Sugar Trade between India and Mauritius.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he can explain to the House the reasons given by the Government of India for the apparent failure of measures defended as likely to improve the trade with India of Mauritius, and the decline in the importation of Mauritius sugar from £1,550,000 in 1904 to £1,174,000 in 1906, compared with the rise in the import from Germany and Austria-Hungary from £1,013,000 to £3,090,000 in the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I presume that my hon. friend refers to the remarks made by Mr. Baker, the finance member of the Viceroy's Council, in the Budget statement of last year as to the effects of the experimental imposition by the Government of India of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar. The duties ceased to operate at the end of 1903, as Austria-Hungary and Germany, the chief competing countries, had joined the Brussels Convention. I do not find that the causes of the fall in the import of Mauritius sugar were specifically treated by Mr. Baker. In the Government of India's Trade Review for 1905-6, the failure of the beet crop of Europe in 1904, and the abundant yield of 1905 and 1906, are mentioned as explanatory of the import figures of the last three years.

Appointments to India Office Messengerships.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT: To ask the Secretary of State for India how many appointments have been made to permanent messengerships at the India Office since January, 1906; and what was the occupation of the individual men prior to appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Five appointments to permanent messengerships at the India Office have been made since January, 1906. Four of the men appointed were pensioned soldiers, and one was a pensioned sailor.

Conditions and Hours of Labour in Bombay Textile Factories.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he has now received the Report from the Government of India as to the conditions and hours of labour in the textile factories of Bombay; and when it is probable that the Report will be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I would refer my hon. friend to the Answer I made yesterday to a similar Question.†

Moria Labourers' Cottage Schemes.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a scheme for the building of fifty labourers' cottages by the Moria Rural District Council was confirmed by the Local Government Board's inspector last March; that the inspector recommended that eleven other applications, which the council had rejected, should be added to the number already mentioned, which the council promised to do; and whether, in view of the fact that many of these applications have been lodged with the council since 1901, he will take steps to have the scheme which the Local Government Board confirmed carried out forthwith.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The inspector's order provisionally authorising the erection of the fifty cottages included in the council's scheme was made on 11th April, and, as no petition against the order has been lodged within the prescribed period, the Local Government Board are about to confirm it. The inspector has no power to insert in the order the eleven other applications referred to, as these were not included in the council's scheme. He suggested, however, that they should be dealt with in a new scheme which the council propose to make. The council agreed to the adoption of this course, and the applicants have been given an opportunity of lodging fresh petitions.

Duke of Abercorn's Donegal Estate—Delay in Completion of Sale.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are in a position to complete promptly the sale of the Donegal estate of the Duke of Abercorn to the tenants; whether the title has been ruled on, and all requirements of the Commissioners complied with; and can he say what has caused the delay in completion of a sale so long pending.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The documents as to the vendor's title in this case have only recently been lodged, and, until the title has been duly investigated, the Estates Commissioners will not be in a position to sanction the advances.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (added in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Flavin; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. William Harvey.

Report to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Ordered, That the several Accounts and Papers which have been presented to the House in this session of Parliament relating to the Revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee to the Whole House.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Resolved, That this House will, upon Thursday next, resolve itself into the said Committee.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 10th June, and to be printed. [Bill 217.]

TELEGRAPH (MONEY).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums not exceeding in the whole £6,000,000 for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, and to apply the provisions of The Telegraph Act, 1892, to the raising of such sums.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next.

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† See page 66.

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [8th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's): I do not think that it is well that this debate should be left entirely to the legal profession, but I consider that some contribution to it should at all events be permitted by laymen. The question of instituting a Court of Criminal Appeal is one of enormous importance, and it is one which is of great interest to laymen as well as to lawyers. We on this side have no desire to approach the consideration of the question in any party spirit, and though we think the details of the Bill require minute and rigid scrutiny, we have no desire in any way to obstruct or oppose its passage. The setting up of a Court of Criminal Appeal and the creating of a new departure in our criminal system is so important that I am sure that the House will not think that we are asking too much when we say that it is worthy of the closest consideration. I regret that the Government have found it necessary, under stress of business, to set the discussion of the Bill down for a morning sitting, when most of the experienced lawyers in the House are, by the nature of their profession, compelled to be elsewhere. A great deal of sentiment has been aroused in favour of criminal appeal, and many of us who originally took a different view of the matter now feel that that there must be some sort of criminal appeal. But though I am in favour of some Court of Criminal Appeal, I am not in agreement with many of the arguments or with the whole of the proposals put forth in its favour or brought forward in this Bill. I think that rather too much has been made of the difference between civil and criminal trials. It has been said, for instance, "You give an appeal in a case involving a few shillings, but none in a case involving a man's life or liberty." But I would wish the House to remember that there is a great difference between civil and criminal trials. First of all, in a civil case, both the plaintiff and the defendant have the same right of appeal; and then there is an essential difference between the two classes of cases, which was clearly pointed out by the Lord Chief Justice last year. In civil cases you have two parties, and one party does not know the details of the evidence to be given by the other party, and often does not know even its substance. That is not the case in criminal trials, where there are not two parties, and the prosecution has to make out their case to the satisfaction of the tribunal on fact. In civil cases one party does not know the details of the evidence to be given by the other party, but in criminal cases the witnesses for the prosecution are all examined in the defendant's presence before the committing magistrate. Therefore the accused goes into Court with a full knowledge of the details of the evidence to be given against him. In civil cases the jury have to decide upon the balance of the evidence, but in criminal cases the guilt of the prisoner must be proved up to the hilt. Then look at procedure. In a criminal case you have first the committal before magistrates or the verdict of a coroner's jury; secondly, the finding of the Grand Jury; and, thirdly, trial before a Judge and jury, and a verdict of the jury which must be unanimous. Thus in criminal cases you always have what may be called a preliminary trial, and the trial before the Judge and jury is, in itself, to a certain extent an appeal. I think it was the present Attorney-General who, on March 16th, 1898, emphasised this point and used these words—

> "In criminal cases the trial is in a sense itself an appeal."

But it is impossible to deny that there does exist a general desire in the public mind to see some reform in regard to the criminal law in the direction of a Court of Appeal and a sincere wish that some means may be found to eliminate the possibility of a miscarriage of justice. The Bill we are now considering is a different one from that which was introduced in the House of Lords last year, and I think the Attorney-General may be congratulated on some improvements he has been able to effect. But still there are many defects which in my humble opinion must be got rid of before this measure can be called a workable one. I hope the hon. and learned Gentleman will not think me impertinent if I ask him, or the Home Secretary when he replies later in the debate, to say whether the Judges have been consulted in the preparation of the Bill, especially in regard to its machinery clauses, and that, at all events, the present Bill is not open to the criticism which was passed upon the Bill of last year by the Lord Chief Justice, who, on the Third reading said—

> "It is my duty most unwillingly to say that I believe the Bill, as it leaves your Lordships' House, to be unworkable, and I deeply regret that legislation in this shape, on so important a matter as the criminal law, should be sent down from your Lordships' House to another place."

I am led to hope that there has been full consideration of this matter, and that the judicial authorities have been fully consulted, and I am led to think that that is the case because the Attorney-General, on the introduction of the Bill, said—

> "I have given most careful consideration to the criticisms, many of them most able and cognate, which have reached me from many quarters."

It is not my object, even if I were capable, to criticise much of the procedure proposed under the Bill or to suggest amendments to the machinery. I leave that in the much more capable hands of the practising members of the Bar, who, I have no doubt, will express their views later in the debate and will have much to say on these points. I will confine myself to some objections which I see to the main provisions of the measure. The Bill proposes to give a convicted person power—that is a person convicted on indictment—to appeal—

> "Against his conviction on any ground of appeal which involves a question of law alone."

I have no objection to this proposal at all. Indeed I think we shall all agree that a convicted person should have this power. It was recommended in the report of the recent Royal Commission on the Beck case, and though the opinions of legal experts are divided about many proposals in the Bill, I think they are united on this point: that instead of its being optional with the Judge or Recorder to reserve a point of law he should be compelled to reserve it. I think they are all agreed that such a right, in the words of the Attorney-General, "should be unqualified." But I do not think that there should be an appeal on matters of fact, and the Bill allows a convicted person to appeal—

> "With the leave of the Court of Criminal Appeal against his conviction on any ground of appeal which involves a question of fact alone, or a question of mixed law and fact, or on any other ground which appears to the Court to be a sufficient ground of appeal."

I do not think he should have such a right on a pure question of fact, or that the final decision of a question of fact should be taken from the jury and given to Judges who have not seen the prisoner or heard the witnesses. I am willing to give to the Court the decision of appeals on questions of law alone or on questions as to the legality or illegality of sentences, or on questions of misdirection; but I certainly think that we ought not, at all events until after very much further consideration, to give an appeal on questions of fact alone. I want to say a word or two upon the question of new trials. The Attorney-General said, in introducing the Bill, "There will be no new trial"; by which I conclude he means no rehearing of evidence. I think in the Bill of last year the Judges were given power in certain cases to order a new trial, and I hope that such power may be given in the present Bill. This point was, I think, pressed strongly last year in another place, and the objection of some of their Lordships to last year's Bill was only withdrawn on the understanding that when it was thought necessary that a case should be retried it should not be retried by the Judges alone but by a Judge with another jury. A return was granted last year, on the motion of Lord Ashbourne in another place, showing the number of Bills which had been introduced on this subject. I think that in this return there are some thirty odd Bills, and in twenty-five of those Bills there was power to order a new trial. I think that is a question which we shall have to consider very carefully when we come to a later stage of the Bill, and I would remind the House that the Commission of Judges on this subject made no report in favour of new trial on questions of fact, nor did they do so in their subsequent report of 1892. Then

Mr. Akers-Douglas.

there is the question whether the Court should have power to increase as well as to reduce sentences. I am not sure how far any such power is given in this Bill unless it is under Clause 4, subsection 3, but I think there is much to be said for such a power being given. It would act as a deterrent to frivolous appeals, and I am one of those who think that you may have many such if this Bill passes into law in its present form. At present you have in the Bill no restriction, and a convict, knowing he cannot be worse off by appealing, will naturally, though he may know he is guilty, say: "Why should I not try my luck by bringing my case before the Court of Appeal?" Further, I think that a power of this sort would tend to an equality ,or, at all events, to a greater equality of sentences. It has been brought home to me, and it must have been brought home to others who have held the office of Home Secretary, that there is an alarming inequality in the sentences imposed in our Criminal Courts. Not only are there judicial authorities who are, and have been, notorious for the severe sentences they give, but there are certain others who are notorious for giving sentences below the standard set by the majority of our Judges and Recorders. I think some such power was suggested by the Council of the Judges some little time ago, who said—

> "But the punishment inflicted on a convicted prisoner should, if justice requires it, be diminished, and the Court, on the hearing of such an application, should have power to increase the applicant's sentence when the facts seem to need it. Any independent application to increase punishment should be made on the personal responsibility of the Attorney-General, who would only so apply in cases appearing to him to be of extreme or systematic inadequacy of sentence. It is necessary to give this power to the Attorney-General, to be exercised by him only in rare cases, because it would hardly be possible otherwise to attain and enforce a reasonable uniformity of sentence. An opportunity should be afforded to every prisoner of being heard, by himself or counsel, before his sentence is increased."

If a power of this sort were included it would, I believe, tend to greater uniformity of sentence, which is much to be desired, but, above all, it would tend to stop frivolous appeals. It would act as a useful deterrent against the appeals of prisoners who know themselves to be guilty. It is most important to prevent such unnecessary appeals, otherwise the Bill will become unworkable and your Courts of Law will be more hopelessly blocked than they are at the present time. The number of petitions which are likely to be sent in under this Bill if it becomes law will, unless there is some such provision, inevitably completely block the Courts and render the Act unworkable. Every person convicted on indictment has the right to apply to the new Court for leave to appeal, and I asked the Home Secretary on this point for figures in regard to the petitions sent in, and he most courteously gave me them. In 1905 1,013 petitions relating to 674 cases were sent in complaining that the petitioners had been wrongly convicted, and 1,186 petitions relating to 850 cases were sent in complaining that the sentences were too severe. That was the number of petitions sent in under the present system; but if you invite petitions, as you do under this Bill, I am certain you may expect a very much larger number. There will be a tendency amongst all, and especially among old offenders, to try their luck, and many of those who know themselves to be guilty will appeal on the chance of getting off, or to have the excitement of coming up to town and of seeing solicitors and others which they otherwise would not have. In 1905 the total number of persons convicted on indictment was 10,118, and of these 6,790 persons were old offenders having been previously convicted; so, in place of the 674 and 850 cases respectively where petitions were sent in in 1905, you will probably have several hundred more, and I should not be surprised if in the first year they amounted to over 2,000. We all agree that more Judges are wanted. It is a matter of common knowledge that the judicial staff is not sufficient for the business before the Courts. It is admitted by the Judges and it is emphasised by the Bar Council. The Attorney-General stated earlier in the week that there is a list of 572 cases awaiting trial in the King's Bench Division. I understand that that is not more than an average number in recent years, and also that the normal length of time that elapses between a case being set down and the day it comes on for hearing is nine months. I do not know that the position is even so satisfactory in the Court of Appeal, and yet you propose to add further duties to those already discharged by your Judges and thus increase the law's delay. In this country we are to be congratulated on the fact that we know that prisoners or litigants are sure of fair play at the hands of our Judges, but I maintain that justice should be speedy as well as just; but so far as litigants are concerned they have to wait months and months for redress and sometimes find that the costs more than swallow up the award. The present number of Judges is not sufficient, and it is impossible for them, unless they are largely reinforced, to undertake the fresh work which this Bill throws on them. I think there will be a general concurrence of opinion that criminal cases cannot wait. Certainly capital cases cannot or the death penalty must go. But even in cases not involving the death penalty, it is out of the question that persons should be left in prison months or even weeks uncertain of their fate. It is clear that the Judges who sit upon this tribunal will be taken from their present work in the High Courts and the litigation in those Courts will be delayed. Therefore more Judges must be appointed, as I understand that the temporary expedient which is being tried now of sending out additional Commissioners will not be of much avail. Then we have to consider the question of expense, which no doubt is of minor importance, but still of importance to a Party pledged to economy. I do not know how many Judges the Attorney-General will think it necessary to add in order to cope with the work which will be thrown upon the Courts if this new Bill passes, but I should say that at least three would be required. That means £15,000 a year, and then there would be a good many minor officials who would be necessary for the Court, whose salaries would also have to be paid. Then I see the Bill proposes that shorthand notes shall be taken of every criminal trial at assizes and quarter-sessions, and the costs of counsel and solicitor shall be awarded to the prisoner, and the travelling expenses of the prisoner and the witnesses in coming to London are to be allowed also. Has the hon. and learned Attorney-General made an estimate of those expenses, and can he tell us what the estimate amounts to? I am glad to think there is no intention to interfere with the prerogative of mercy now exercised on the advice of the Home Secretary. There are many cases in which, if this Bill passes, it will be of the greatest use in the interest of the prisoner. It often happens that the Home Secretary intervenes where it is impossible to come to the conclusion that a prisoner is innocent, but where after the most careful inquiry and investigation there is sufficient doubt and uncertainty to enable him to order his release. Then the Bill gives wider powers to this Court to consider all the circumstances of the case, though they may not be strict evidence. Here you follow, and in my opinion wisely follow, the practice of the Home Office. In these cases the Secretary of State can and does take into consideration information outside the evidence, and facts which do not come before the jury, confidential reports as to a man's mode of life, his character, and so on. Indeed it often happens that the Secretary of State advises remission on information which is not strictly evidence, or which would not be received as such in a Court of Law. In my experience it was often, generally, I think, the information resulting from inquiries made by the police or by the Public Prosecutor which disclosed fresh facts — facts previously unknown either to prosecution or defence —which led to the establishment of the prisoners' innocence, rather than any fresh evidence placed before the Home Office by the prisoner or his friends. To emphasise this, or rather to give a concrete instance, I will quote the instance given by the present Attorney-General in a former debate on this subject. He said—

> "In my own experience I can recall a case in which a man who was convicted of murder, and sentenced to be hanged, was given a free pardon at the instance of the Home Secretary for the time being, notwithstanding the strong opposition of the Judge. The Home Secretary was able to appoint a most irregular tribunal, but one which acted with great efficiency. He sent down a commissioner to the gaol, who conducted an inquiry, heard statements which could not have been admitted as evidence in a Court of Law, and arrived at the conclusion that an innocent man had been convicted. If that man had been brought before the proposed new tribunal there is no doubt but that his sentence would have been carried out."

I need not weary the House with any further description of the Home Office system. It was fully described in the debate of 1898 by the then Home Secretary, Sir M. White-Ridley, and endorsed by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, a former Home Secretary, and is laid down in Sir K. Digby's Memorandum, reprinted as an Appendix to the Edalji Report. But though I am convinced it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a more able or more careful staff than now advise the Home Secretary, I cannot deny that there are cases—not many—in which I would gladly have welcomed a power preferably to order a new trial before the public in a regular Court of Law governed by the procedure of a legal Court, but, failing that, to refer the cases for consideration to a Court of Judges such as is proposed. The Home Secretary has not only this extremely able staff, but he can call on the assistance when necessary of the Public Prosecutor, of the Law Officers, of the Lord Chancellor and the counsel for the defence, which assistance in all my experience has never been withheld. But it is confidential advice which cannot be quoted, and advice which certainly has not the same weight with the public as a Court of Appeal would have. Therefore, speaking as one who has had some experience of the very serious responsibility which attaches to the Secretary of State in matters dealing with the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, I welcome the proposal in Clause 19 giving power to the Secretary of State to refer a case—or any point arising out of a case—to the Court for their determination or opinion. I do not wish to take up further time on the present stage of the Bill. I have made these observations and criticisms in no party spirit. I consider it, as we must all consider it, most important that all questions relating to our criminal law should be kept clear of anything in the nature of party politics. I shall offer no opposition to the Second Reading, but I hope that the Government will be able to accept alterations in Committee which will make the measure more workable. Above all, I hope they will agree either to omit the right of appeal on questions of fact, or to hedge it in with efficient safeguards.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I heartily agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite in his desire to introduce a lay element into the debate, and I appreciate his wish that no party spirit should be imported into this discussion. I welcome the friendly support which the right hon. gentleman has promised to the Second Reading of the Bill, to which he stands in the position of a friendly critic. We are all agreed that there are very many important points which will have to be carefully scrutinised in Committee. It is not my intention to follow the right hon. Gentleman into those points on the present occasion, not because they do not deserve atention, but because I desire to take a somewhat different line, and my hon. and learned friend who will follow me will deal with the legal aspects of the question. One general proposition I will make in reply to the very important points of criticism raised by the right hon. Gentleman. After all, though there may be great difficulties such as congestion of business, yet the fact stands out that this is the only civilised country in the world which has not a Court of Criminal Appeal. Other countries have settled these problems, and I have no doubt that this country will also be able to settle them. The right hon. Gentleman asked a question about the Judges. I will leave my hon. and learned friend to deal with that. I want rather to insist on the fact that though this is a subject which directly affects the Judges, it affects the Home Secretary for the time being even more than it concerns any particular Judge, because while an individual Judge may be responsible in one case, the Home Secretary may be responsible in connection with every case. His position in this matter, therefore, is one of great importance. The right hon. Gentleman mentioned the fact that something like thirty Bills on this subject have been brought forward within a comparatively recent period. Those Bills have never made any progress up to the present time, the weight of technical and legal objection having in the main been fatal to them. I observe that the same objections are now being urged against the present measure. The rejection of the measure on the Second Reading has been moved and seconded by two hon. and learned Members opposite, and eminent criminal authorities like Sir Harry Poland have urged powerful and forcible objections against the Bill. I admit the force of a great many of the objections, but my hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General will deal with these later in the debate. My point is that Sir Harry Poland and others have not sufficiently realised the increasing difficulties of the present system which this Bill is designed to alter. After all, the opponents of the measure have to fall back on the Home Secretary. They admit that some review is necessary. They say the Home Office jurisdiction has been satisfactory in the past, and that it is quite sufficient to meet every case. Therefore it is essential to see what the Home Office view is. First of all, I would like to remove one general misapprehension. It is a mistake to suppose, as many suppose, that the Court of Criminal Appeal is intended to take the place of the Home Office jurisdiction as at present administered. The Court of Criminal Appeal must differ entirely from the administration of the prerogative of mercy by an Executive Department of the Government. Let me show precisely the disadvantages to which Home Office jurisdiction stands exposed as compared with a Court of Criminal Appeal. A Court of Criminal Appeal, if dissatisfied with a conviction, has the power of quashing it. There is no power of that kind in the Home Office. If, after full inquiry, the case is doubtful, it would sometimes advise the granting of a pardon to the prisoner, or it can grant a remission of imprisonment. But it can give no definite and final judicial finding, such as a Court of law can give, and a case, because of that, might remain in doubt. In the second place, the Court decides after hearing both sides. On a petition to the Home Office the prisoner's case only is before it The result of that is that the Home Office has to discover the case against the prisoner, to test his conviction and his guilt, in order to establish, if possible, his innocence. But, in doing so, the Home Office is open to misconception, and is often bitterly represented as being hostile to the prisoner, for whom, as a matter of fact, the Department is really acting. In the third place, the decision of a Court of law is final. There is no legal finality in the position of the Home Secretary. The consequence of that is that, although he might come to a clear and definite decision, he is always exposed to pressure to reconsider that decision. Questions may be asked in the House of Commons, and letters written to the Press. A newspaper may appoint a commissioner, who starts with absolutely no knowledge of the case, to put a particular case, that of the prisoner, and then, because the Home Secretary adheres to the decision at which he has arrived on the fullest information that anybody could have, he is exposed not only to criticism, but to censure and abuse. In the fourth place, the Court, as its decision is final, is enabled to state its reasons for that decision. The Home Office cannot state its reasons as a general rule. The cases that come before the Home Secretary necessarily include those which are of special difficulty. There is, in these cases, much to be said on both sides, and if the reasons were stated, obviously those reasons would be debated in the Press and in Parliament by those who could not know all the facts and who are not in a position to arrive at anything like a judicial opinion. But that is not the only reason for reticence. In the interests of the prisoner, inquiries are continually made which are of a confidential character, and information is given only because it is confidential. A statement of reasons would involve the disclosure of confidential communications. That is undesirable, and, I maintain, impossible. It would preclude the Home Secretary from making confidential inquiries; that would be absolutely against the interests of the prisoner and would have the most unfortunate results. The Home Secretary is, in my experience, constantly and repeatedly blamed in the Press and in Parliament because, forsooth, he is holding what is called a "secret" inquiry at which the prisoner or his representatives cannot be present. The inquiries that are held are invariably in the interests of the prisoner, and the one thing from which the Home Office receives the greatest pleasure is where it can find reason either to give a remission of sentence or a free pardon. Nothing is more satisfactory in every way. The Home Secretary acquires a reputation for doing justice, and he relieves his Department from the incubus of doubtful cases. To do anything which diminishes this power of confidential secret inquiry would militate absolutely against the convicted person. In the fifth place, the Court may think it necessary to take fresh evidence on oath and to cross-examine witnesses. The Home Office has no such power, and, in fact, it is, or it ought to be, generally known that the prerogative of mercy was never intended to be used for the purpose of a Court of Appeal or a Court of Revision. If that were the practice or the effect, obviously the Executive Government would have the direct power given to it to interfere with that judicial independence which is one of the glories of the British Constitution, and yet I am constantly pressed from all sorts of quarters, as my predecessors have been pressed, from the executive point of view, to interfere with the decisions of the Courts. These difficulties are made much greater by the ignorance of the public, which is accustomed to the proceedings of a Court, but which cannot understand any different procedure in these matters. It is quite natural, but it is inconvenient. On the other hand, [I am bound to admit that] the Home Office has some advantages as compared with a Court of Law. It can make these confidential inquiries, it can consider matters and information which are not evidence, and, for that reason, it can sometimes interfere where a Court of law cannot or will not. Under these circumstances the Bill leaves the powers of the Home Office in regard to the use of the prerogative untouched. I believe that if this Bill passes into law the number of cases which come before the Home Office for interference will be greatly diminished, though they will certainly not be altogether removed. The Home Office will, too, have an added advantage. In the first place, it will have a choice. The Home Secretary can either deal with the case, as now, independently of the Court of Appeal, by confidential inquiry, and arrive at an independent judgment, if necessary; or he will be able, under the powers given by the Bill, to refer the whole case, or any point in connection with the case, for the opinion of the Court. That power will be invaluable to the Home Office. Then assume that the Court of Appeal has delivered its judgment, and fresh evidence is forthcoming: it would still be open to the Home Office, as now, to consider that fresh evidence, and to take such action, within its constitutional powers, as it takes at the present time. Therefore, undoubtedly, as regards the question of appeal, of review, and of protection against miscarriage of justice, the establishment of a Court of Appeal as proposed by this Bill must be a great added security. You will not only get the efficient work of the Court of Appeal, but you will still have untouched powers in the background. I come now to state the two main reasons which I submit to the House, from the Home Office standpoint, in support of the Second Reading of this Bill. I am glad to see present the hon. and learned Gentleman who at the present moment has announced his opposition to this Bill, and I respectfully ask his earnest attention to what I am about to say. First of all, I would observe that the present machinery for redressing a miscarriage of justice is insufficient. There are three aspects which criminal cases, on examination by the Home Office, may take. First of all, it may be perfectly clear that there is no case for interference. Secondly, the original conviction may appear unsatisfactory, either because the evidence before the Court at the time of the trial was unsatisfactory or insufficient, or because of subsequent information which may have come to knowledge. In any of these circumstances the principle which would guide a Scottish Court of Law to a decision would be "Not proven." In the third place, there may be a clear establishment of the innocence of the person who has been convicted. The first and the last aspects are simple. The second aspect is where the real difficulty comes in, and it is, I regret to say, a common case. There may be grave suspicion, such as makes it most undesirable to give a free pardon, and yet sufficient doubt to make it unsafe to maintain the conviction. If the man is in prison he can be released, and he sometimes thinks himself lucky to get out. Occasionally it may happen that in the desire to do the utmost for a possibly innocent man—especially if he has served his sentence—a free pardon is given, even though his innocence is not established. In many of these cases you have to consider the circumstances connected with the original charge and conviction. The man may have himself to blame for his conviction. Though he may not have actually committed the crime, he may have constantly associated with criminals, knowing them to be criminals; he may have had previous convictions which justify suspicion; or he may, by the unsatisfactoriness of his action, have himself to thank for a miscarriage of justice, if it be a miscarriage. Now, in connection with these cases, the further consideration may arise with regard to compensation, which, at present, is given in rare cases where innocence has been established and where it is clear that the prisoner has not himself to thank for the trouble he has got into. I should be very glad to see this question of compensation for unjust imprisonment removed altogether from the Home Office and put into the hands of a Court of law. The demand for compensation, made to the Home Office and backed up by Parliamentary action, is, I think, a most difficult matter for the Home Secretary. Parliamentary pressure is put upon him, and perhaps it might be said that the Government would have great trouble if the adjournment of the House were moved; I do not say that has been the motive of anybody, but that is naturally a position which may arise. At any rate I would suggest to the House that the Home Secretary in his executive capacity is scarcely the man to decide on these cases. The House will remember the circumstances under which these cases have to be decided. After a long inquiry, after considerable difficulty, a decision is arrived at that a man has been unjustly dealt with, even though he might have had himself to thank in great measure. Then a demand is made for compensation. It is very difficult under these circumstances for the Home Secretary to stand out against the very natural and inevitable feeling of sympathy on the part of the public for a man who has been unjustly condemned. The public has very little patience with the plea put forward by the Home Secretary, based on perfectly sound administrative notions, that there are circumstances in the case against the granting of compensation. The general view of the public is, "Oh, never mind about that; if you say that he is so far relieved from the stigma that his innocence is established, grant him compensation." If you admit that, then comes the question of amount, which may be the object of a further agitation, and may be pressed upon Parliament. For these reasons I hope that sooner or later the power will be taken from the Home Office and handed over to a Court of law, so that the claim can be stated and fairly weighed. It is obvious that a great many difficulties arise owing to the considerations which I have put before the House. The balance of these considerations is sometimes so equal that the decision brings immense responsibility to a man in the position of the Home Secretary. And, then, imagine the position of the Home Secretary, who may be cross-examined on the floor of this House by anyone who chooses to get up, wholly ignorant of the facts, and put every sort of difficult and delicate question, the answer to which would involve the disclosure of confidential information which it is practically impossible to give. The Home Secretary may have come to an absolutely right and sound decision, but, in spite of that, he is exposed to the attacks and the questions of half a dozen individuals, with one purpose or another—it may be for the purposes of the Press—honestly, I hope. I am not talking of any particular instance, but cases do arise, and I think I have said enough to show how unsuitable is the present method. At best it means a delay of justice. The House should not forget that. I hope that the hon. and learned Gentleman will not forget that under the present system when an injustice is done by a Court of law the opponents of the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal have to rely on the action of the Home Secretary, and the Home Secretary can only act after weeks, perhaps months, it may even be years, in the redress of a grievance, and, therefore, it means at best a delay of justice.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): I have known the Home Secretary frequently release persons within the week, and even in twenty-four hours.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have done it in twenty-four hours myself, but not where there were important questions.

MR. RAWLINSON: Yes, in important cases.

MR. GLADSTONE: I think I may say from my own knowledge that those cases are rare and certainly in the bulk of those cases, which are generally known as the leading cases of miscarriage of justice, the decision has been long delayed. I think I have established my point. We hope that under the Court of Criminal Appeal, instead of a long delay, we will have the prevention, to a large extent, of miscarriages of justice. I pass to my second argument, from the point of view of the Home Office, and I say very deliberately to this House that the general position of the Home Secretary in criminal cases is now almost unbearable. It is due largely to a misapprehension of the functions of the Home Office. Even some leading newspapers seem to consider that the Home Office jurisdiction includes the functions of an Appeal Court, that there is a Department in the Home Office for criminal investigation, and that the Home Office is, in fact, responsible for all or any of the mistakes which may be made by the Criminal Courts. But over and above this misapprehension, which is honest and legitimate, there are less responsible newspapers, which, for their own purposes, re-try criminal cases in their own way. Let me observe that the objective is not always the Home Secretary. After all, the Home Secretary is paid to be shot at, he cannot complain if he be attacked; if he consent to take that office, he must expect what he gets.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Then he is not disappointed.

MR. GLADSTONE: He is not surprised, at any rate. But in recent years it has become the practice in certain quarters to discriminate between one Judge and another. In criminal matters even a very strong Judge may make a mistake, while a Judge who is looked upon as less strong may be perfectly right. Some Judges who may not be so strong in certain directions may be excellent to try criminal cases, but the fashion now is that when, perhaps, a Judge, at some time or other, comes in contact with public opinion, he is a marked man; and when a notorious or prominent case happens to be tried by that particular Judge, or particular Recorder or magistrate, whoever it may be, then that unfortunate person is held up to the public as a man who was obviously unfit to try the case, and, therefore, because it was tried by that Judge the Home Secretary must intervene. That is a tendency which is, at any rate, contrary to the interests of justice. But the practice is still worse for the Home Secretary. If he is a lawyer he is told that he is prejudiced in favour of the Courts, and that, by professional habit, he is precluded from the common-sense lay judgment which is necessary in the Home Office jurisdiction. If the Home Secretary was a layman, then it is said that he is ignorant of the law, that he is unused to the handling of evidence and incompetent for any sort of judicial responsibility. Whoever the Home Secretary may be, those who for their own purposes wish to re-try a case declare him to be incompetent unless he accepts their particular view. I go further. If the Home Secretary fortifies himself by the opinion of a distinguished criminal Judge, that opinion is discounted as that of a lawyer, who may have at one time held strong political opinions, or because as a Judge he may have been identified with some unpopular decision. Even if a case is submitted to three distinguished legal authorities, what happens? Then, perhaps, the commissioner for a newspaper sets that aside with the cool statement that the case could not have been properly submitted and that some material facts must have been withheld. I speak with knowledge on this subject, and I speak from what I know has occurred. All this may be excellent copy for a newspaper, but the Home Secretary, for the reasons I have already described to the House, is powerless; he cannot reply; he cannot keep the public straight; the particular newspaper has it all its own way; the case for the accused is set forth with every kind of literary and editorial garnishing; the case against him, perhaps, is not stated at all, or, if it is stated, it is only stated for the purpose of being knocked down. The public are deluded into the view that there is no case against the criminal. Then there is the constant reference to the few, comparatively few cases, where there have been miscarriages of justice, or where the Home Office has been shown to be in error. For my part, I am not prepared now to admit that they have been at any time, for many years past, guilty of grave error. The constant reiteration of these cases lead people to believe that miscarriages of justice are of every-day occurrence. No reference is made to the hundreds of thousands of criminal cases which are annually tried in this country, to the thousands of cases which come under the review of the Home Office; but the one or two or three cases per annum, on which public attention is aroused and in one way or another concentrated, are fastened upon while the hundreds and thousands of cases where there is no doubt as to the wisdom, justice, or accuracy of the decision of the Court, are never referred to. This practice is rapidly growing from year to year. Whether it is based on honest misapprehension, or the deliberate intention to use sensational cases for newspaper purposes, it is a public danger and it can only be guarded against by the establishment of a Court of law such as this Bill seeks to establish.

*SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said that no one could have heard the case put forward by the Home Secretary without being impressed by his earnest and emphatic language. Following the observations of his predecessor at the Home Office the House had been supplied with material for very serious reflection and consideration in regard to the Bill now before the House. The measure represented a considerable amount of outside public opinion. For many years past there had been a constant demand for a Court of Criminal Appeal in this country. He would not have intervened in the debate if he had not had considerable experience in reference to inquiries into the petitions of prisoners for several years. He knew that whenever a petition was received by the Home Office it was dealt with in the most careful and earnest way upon its merits. In serious cases the question was usually referred to the Solicitor for the Treasury and the Director of Public Prosecutions, and in conjunction with the Criminal Investigation Department inquiries of an elaborate character were made. One great advantage of the present system was that after the inquiry the result was put before the Home Secretary without being bound by the legal technicalities of evidence. That was an enormous advantage to the prisoner whose petition was under consideration. If the appeal lay only to a Court of Criminal Appeal it must be guided absolutely by the rules of legal evidence which necessarily shut out many facts and circumstances that could perfectly well be brought to the knowledge of the Secretary of State who had power to recommend the release of a prisoner or the reduction of his sentence. That power of taking outside evidence and interviewing people in the interests of the prisoner was always exercised by persons who had not any interest in the matter, and evidence was often taken which could not possibly be admitted in a Court of law. Many persons who had had practical experience in this matter felt very strongly that, although there was a considerable volume of public opinion in favour of a Court of Criminal Appeal, it should be hedged with every possible precaution to avoid a block in the administration of justice, and also to prevent untold expenditure. This Bill was undoubtedly a great improvement on the Bill introduced last session. That measure was subjected to strong criticism at the hands of most experienced lawyers and Judges. It was reviewed with great ability and force by a lawyer who had had more experience than anyone else now living in criminal cases—he referred to Sir Harry Poland—who had always been most anxious to stretch every point in favour of the accused. Evidence of that kind ought to receive very careful and earnest consideration. No doubt the Home Secretary and the Law Officers of the Crown had seen his conclusions upon the Criminal Appeal Bill of 1906. Many of the points urged against the Bill of 1906 had been given effect to in the measure now before the House, and for those concessions and alterations the country were greatly indebted to Sir Harry Poland. The establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal was in no sense whatever a new matter, for upwards of thirty Bills had been presented to Parliament upon the question, none of which had ever found general favour. Nevertheless the Judges of the country had very carefully considered the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, and a very remarkable letter was written by the late Lord Russell of Killowen on the 29th April, 1895, to Lord James of Hereford, giving the opinion of the Judges who met to consider the matter. It was a meeting of twenty-two Judges, and as they had before them the opinion of three of the Judges who were absent, it represented the opinion of twenty-five Judges in all. That letter stated that—

> "They were further unanimously of opinion that there should be no new trial in the criminal case."

Lord Russell of Killowen in his letter quoted the opinion of the late Master of the Rolls, Lord Esher, who said—

> "Finally their Lordships desire to make it clear that where a case is referred to the Court by the Home Secretary, such Court should be empowered to deal with it in view of all the facts and circumstances, whether brought forward at the trial or not, and whether founded on strictly legal evidence or not—in fine, upon the principles upon which the Home Secretary is now supposed to act."

Later on it was stated in urging this view upon the public that a Select Committee was appointed, but owing to a change of Government they made no report; they recommended that the Committee should be reappointed in the next session, but that was not done. Something of the same sort happened in 1897. His opinion was that the House should hesitate before it embarked upon a Bill of this kind without a full and complete inquiry before a Select Committee. He did not think that any such inquiry had taken place, and if a Select Committee composed of fifteen members was thought to be too many and would involve too great a consumption of time, then a special Committee might be set up for the purpose. He did not think they ought to embark upon a matter of such extreme gravity, involving an enormous number of appeals before the Judges, a great block in the administration of the business of the country, and vast expenditure, without a full and complete inquiry of a technical and expert character. No doubt the Bill would be read a second time. The late Home Secretary had already stated that he had no intention of opposing it, and for his own part, although he felt there were many defects in the Bill which ought to be remedied, he would be unwilling to oppose the Second Reading. He submitted, however, to the Home Secretary and the Law Officers of the Crown that they should consider seriously whether it was advisable to refer this Bill to a Grand Committee, and whether that would be a satisfactory tribunal. It was well known that Grand Committees were extremely difficult to man, and it was not easy to secure that the Government should be adequately represented, because on a measure of this kind the Law Officers of the Crown would have to be constantly in attendance. If the Second Reading were carried he appealed earnestly to the Government to refer the measure either to a Select Committee or to a special Committee. In this connection he would like to quote a statement from the writings of Lord Macaulay in his essay on "Warren Hastings," in which he said—

> "These rules, it is well known, exclude much information which would be quite sufficient to determine the conduct of any reasonable man in the most important transactions of private life. These rules at every assizes save scores of culprits whom Judges, jury, and spectators firmly believe to be guilty."

In the interests of the prisoner, of public justice, and of society, and for the protection and good order which were the objects for which the criminal law was in force, he thought that a Court of Criminal Appeal should be given those powers. The late Home Secretary had spoken of the seriousness of enabling every prisoner convicted on indictment to appeal. He agreed with the Home Secretary that it was necessary that there should be some kind of risk in making an appeal. He hoped it would be possible to do something to lessen the present inequality in sentences, which was one of the unfortunate incidents in the administration of criminal justice. In 1905 there were 10,118 persons convicted on indictment, and of those 6,790 had been previously convicted. As the late Home Secretary had stated, a large proportion of those persons would, in all probability, have appealed, because there was provision in the Bill for legal assistance at the expense of the public. If only a fourth of the number appealed what a block there would be in the administration of justice, and how difficult it would be to find the three Judges of the High Court necessary to sit in the Court of Criminal Appeal. In 1905 there were 674 petitions addressed to the Home Secretary by prisoners complaining that they had been wrongly convicted, and 850 petitions by persons complaining of over-severe sentences. The figures represented 1,524 cases, but that number would be nothing compared with the number of prisoners convicted on indictment who would appeal under this Bill, because they would have everything to gain and nothing to lose. The Home Secretary had referred to the fact that this was the only country in which there was no Court of Criminal Appeal. That was perfectly true; but speaking with considerable knowledge of the subject he could say that there was no country in which such efforts were made to get at the real facts.

One of the most serious things in connection with the administration of criminal justice was the question of appeal. In other countries, in cases of capital punishment the prisoner was kept in absolute ignorance as to whether the sentence would be carried out or not, and he was only informed that his appeal had been rejected when the authorities came in to lead him away to execution. Nothing of that sort existed in this country. In France a sentence could not only be modified, but the Cassation Court had the power of increasing the sentence. He was not quite clear whether Subsection (3) of Clause 4 was sufficient to give that power. The sub-section ran as follows—

> "On an appeal against sentence the Court of Criminal Appeal shall, if they think that a different sentence should have been passed, quash the sentence passed at the trial, and pass such other sentence (whether more or less severe) in substitution therefor as they think ought to have been passed and in any other case shall dismiss the appeal."

He might take it that the Attorney-General considered the sub-section gave ample power, and of course he bowed to his opinion on the matter. The law's delay was one of the scandals of the time, but that was not the fault of the Judges. To take three Judges away from the ordinary work of the Courts was a very serious matter indeed. Great care was necessary before embarking on a new method of procedure. An expert in criminal cases, whose name he had not authority to mention, had written to him as follows—

> "The Home Office is far better able to deal with prisoners' petitions than a Court fettered by fixed rules. It is clear that by the Home Office employing the police at Scotland Yard or in difficult cases employing the Director of Public Prosecutions who can direct the inquiries of the police the truth can be got at much better than by Judges sitting in open Court."

When he himself was Director of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard he made inquiries under instructions of different Home Secretaries. The late Sir William Harcourt took enormous pains to arrive at the truth in these cases. Sir Robert Anderson, who was for fifteen years the head of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard, had written to him in these terms—

> "I am confident that the Bill would leave prisoners in a worse position than at present. I cannot recall any important case in which I furnished the Secretary of State with a report which led him to discharge a convicted prisoner where the police inquiry which led to that report did not go entirely outside the limits of legal evidence, and under the Bill this advantage would be lost to the accused."

He was sure no one would wish to introduce any Party feelings into this matter. What the whole House wanted was to make the administration of criminal justice as good as it possibly could be, not only in the interest of society at large, but also in the interest of accused persons. Of course, there had been cases of miscarriage of justice, but, as the Home Secretary had said, they had been very few and far between. They all recognised the enormous difficulty and responsibility of the position of Home Secretary. It was to the credit of the right hon. Gentleman and his many predecessors that the public had been so satisfied for very many years with the manner in which they had advised the Sovereign in regard to the exercise of the prerogative of mercy.

*MR. STANGER (Kensington, N.) said he was glad that the late Home Secretary had given a favourable reception to the Bill. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman was in strong contrast with the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University who moved the Amendment now before the House. While he agreed with a great portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, he regretted that he was not yet converted to a belief in the desirability of an appeal on the facts. He trusted that on that point the Government would stand firm, because in his view if that power was taken out the Bill would lose more than half its value. The hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University had made a great point of the expense which would be incurred if the Bill were carried into law, going so far as to argue that, because of the expense and of the great block of business which he anticipated would take place, the machinery provided by the Bill would break down. As to the machinery breaking down he thought his hon. and learned friend's imagination had carried him away. The position was more accurately stated by the late Home Secretary when he suggested that it was only in the earlier stages of the operation of the Bill that any block was likely to occur. He did not propose to discuss the question of expense, because if the Bill was bad they ought to reject it, because it was bad, but if it was good, he thought no one would say that the price to be paid was too high for the benefits they were seeking to secure. He was not one of those who thought that prisoners were never wrongly convicted. He was afraid that the number of cases was understated rather than overstated. He had had a good many years experience in the administration of the criminal law, and, while he perfectly agreed that every effort was made to prevent the conviction of innocent people, he was driven to the conclusion that the number of innocent persons who were convicted from time to time was not inconsiderable; and if this Bill would have the effect of reducing that number he thought that any expense which would be rendered necessary would not be too high. He understood that the hon. and learned Gentleman who moved the Amendment was not opposed to the Bill so far as it provided an appeal on points of law. There was no appeal on questions of law at present unless the presiding Judge gave permission. He thought there was a general opinion that that was a state of things which ought to be put an end to. The Judge whose opinion was to be brought into question ought not to have the right of preventing the appeal. No doubt in refusing leave the Judge acted from the most conscientious motive, but they ought not to lose the opportunity of correcting an error merely because the Judge who committed acted conscientiously. It was most desirable that they should, if possible, put an end to the glaring inequalities in sentences which sometimes shocked the public mind in cases where the offences were similar. He knew many instances, but he would mention only one. Four or five men were charged with a street robbery, and were tried at quarter sessions. All but one were convicted and were sentenced to short times of imprisonment. In the case of the one the evidence was less clear and the jury disagreed, the result being that he was tried again at the assizes and sentenced by the Judge of assize, not to a few months imprisonment like his companions, but to a long term of penal servitude. Thus for the same offence committed at the same time under the same circumstances, one man got a ten times heavier sentence than the rest owing to the circumstance that the evidence was less convincing in his case than in theirs. When this Bill was last before the House it was constantly urged there as well as in another place that there should be no appeal against the facts. He disagreed with that, but he would try to put the argument for it as strongly as he could. It was said that juries were very careful in sifting the evidence. He quite agreed. His hon. and learned friend who seconded the Amendment thought that there could be nothing finer than the demeanour of a jury in a criminal trial. There he also agreed. But it was said that if the jury were told that there would be an appeal from their verdict their sense of responsibility would be undermined and that that would operate to the serious disadvantage of the innocent accused. If there was any truth in that it would be the most damning argument that could be adduced against the Bill. For what could be worse than that this Bill instead of lessening the number of cases in which innocent persons were convicted should actually increase it? He did not believe it for a moment. Nevertheless the argument was supported by high authority, and he would like to quote from the speeches of two very eminent persons upon the subject. The Lord Chief Justice on 22nd May, 1906, said in discussing the Bill of that year—

> "What is the chief objection to the proposed change? It is my distinct conviction that such a procedure as is contemplated will undermine altogether the responsibilities of juries. . . . What is it that we now say? We have to tell them (the juries) that theirs is the responsibility in matters of fact. We have to tell them that there is in this respect no appeal from their decision, and we have to tell them that, unless they areas satisfied as they would be in any important event of their lives, they ought to give the accused the benefit of the doubt, and return a verdict of acquittal. The whole of that observation would be cut away from us."

He hardly liked to venture to differ from so great an authority, but he thought that there was no ground for the remark that "the whole of that observation would be cut away from us." A very large part of it would still remain; it would still remain the duty of the Judge to tell the jurymen that theirs was the responsibility in matters of fact.

It would still remain his duty to tell them that unless they were as satisfied as they would be in any important event of their lives, they ought to give the accused the benefit of the doubt and return a verdict of acquittal, so that in fact the whole observation would remain except the clause as to there being no appeal. Again Lord Halsbury, on 27th March, 1906, said—

> "I think that the feeling of responsibility among jurymen has been of infinite value in preserving the care with which justice is administered in this country."

He desired with great respect to associate himself entirely with that observation. But Lord Halsbury went on to say—

> "Under this Bill that will be swept away."

He could not help thinking that Lord Halsbury in that remark had allowed himself for once to use extravagant language. What was a juryman? He was a man who came not often, perhaps once in his lifetime, at any rate not more than two or three times, into Court, and took an oath that he would give a true verdict according to the evidence. The juryman must know that it was a very responsible task which he had to perform, and he quite agreed with hon. Members opposite that as a rule he performed it well. But why should the juryman divest himself of his responsibility because he knew there might be an appeal from his verdict? He should think that the knowledge that an appeal was possible, if it affected the minds of the jurymen at all, might make them even more careful in order that they should not be found out to have been in the wrong, or be spoken of as having made a mistake. His own view was that the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal would not have any effect on the minds of the jury, and that they would discharge their duties which were judicial duties in the same judicial frame of mind as before. It had been said that there were three stages in the career of a Judge. In the first stage he was nervously anxious to do what was right, and to avoid what was wrong; in the second stage he believed that he always did right, and never did what was wrong; but that in the third stage he did not care a straw whether what he did was right or wrong. He should be sorry to vouch for the truth of this, but his point was that the juryman never got beyond the first stage. The authority he was clothed with was brief. He hoped that the Government would not yield to the suggestion that that part of the Bill should be struck out, or that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. Although he was a cordial supporter of the Bill he was not sure that it would not disappoint many people who had raised their hopes somewhat too high. As long as human nature remained what it was, and until the general level of character and intelligence had been raised to a very much higher standard than at present, he was afraid that these occasional judicial tragedies would occur. As long as perjury existed, as long as rogues were clever, and honest folk were stupid, wrong decisions would sometimes be given. Meanwhile they must do their best to make the machinery as perfect as they could, preserving, at the same time, the Home Office machinery. Believing that the Bill was a step towards the goal they ought to have in view he cordially supported it, in the hope that by carrying it into law, Parliament might after long years of waiting, remove what was at present a real blot on our judicial system.

*Mr. BUCKMASTER (Cambridge) said that the object which the Bill was framed to secure must command the sympathy and support of all sections of the House. To think of an innocent man being kept in prison was so horrible that he was satisfied no discussion as to the best means of removing the possibility of such an evil would take place on Party lines. He thought before this measure was examined it was of considerable importance to see what was the present criminal procedure and how this measure affected it. At the present time, except in cases of an appeal from Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, there was an appeal only on a question of law when a special case was granted by the Judge at his discretion. The Bill proposed that an appeal on a question of law should be no longer discretionary, but should be made absolute. That was a provision which ought to be passed without any delay; but when they came to the other parts of the Bill which gave a right of appeal on controversies as to fact and against the sentence, he looked upon them as fraught with the possibility of great mischief. He thought the promoters of the Bill felt that if they gave that right of appeal without any protection at all the Courts would be glutted with appeals. If the motives generally supposed to influence a lawyer's action were the only ones that guided their judgment they would welcome this Bill with open arms, for it would crowd the Courts with work, and would line the pockets of members of the legal profession with money drawn from the lean purses of some poor prisoners' friends. The promoters of the Bill, recognising the difficulty, had felt it necessary to safeguard its provisions by providing that a man who appealed against his sentence might have it increased, and the man who appealed on a question of fact might find himself convicted by another Court on evidence which was not before the Court of first instance, and upon which the jury had not found a verdict. That most grievously offended the instincts of people who would wish to see the preservation of an unfettered system of justice. If there was a right of appeal from a sentence of imprisonment, what right had they to put a man under a penalty if he exercised his right? The reason for the provision was that the hon. Members who introduced this measure were well aware of the enormous additions of work which would arise unless its provisions were safeguarded. When they had got an appeal on a question of fact what was to be the function of the Court before whom the appeal was brought? It was most important to see what the Bill provided in that respect. It provided that the Court of Appeal might set aside a verdict on any ground on which a verdict could be set aside in civil proceedings; but the House of Lords had laid it down that such a verdict should not be interfered with unless there was such a preponderance of evidence as to make it unreasonable and almost perverse, that a jury, properly assisted and directed by a Judge, should return such a verdict. That was the only principle to be applied on an appeal on a question of fact, although he agreed that there were other cases in which they might exercise their powers.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said he did not quite read the Bill in that way—that the Judge before whom the appellant was convicted could have his decision set aside on the ground that it was wrong in law and in fact. It was an alternative. It was a judgment, and not a verdict.

*MR. BUCKMASTER said that was the whole point; the grounds upon which the verdict could be disturbed were as he had said. Everyone knew that it was perfectly impossible to reproduce before a Court of Appeal the atmosphere that had affected the verdict in the Court below. The hesitation of the witnesses in answer to questions in cross-examination, the flinching of a man at an awkward moment, the demeanour of a man who had given evidence of facts that affected, and rightly affected, the jury—all the material that impressed the jury who heard the evidence was obliterated when the proceedings were reduced to nothing but the flat monotony of a shorthand note. He submitted that grievous wrong might be done if this Bill passed. He did not agree that the responsibility of the jury would be swept away, but he unhesitatingly said that the verdict would be weakened, and there would not be that full and solemn responsibility attaching to the position of the juryman which attached to it now, when he knew that a man's liberty, his reputation, it might even be his life itself trembled solely on their verdict and hung upon the hazard of their lips. If in only one case in a thousand they had a jury affected by this consideration where otherwise they would allow a man to go free, the Legislature would have inflicted the very wrong which this Bill was intended to remedy. It was, however, sufficient for his purpose to show that the responsibility of the jury would be lessened, if it was only in a trifling degree. It was quite unnecessary to suggest that they would be swayed from a sense of their duty; what would happen would be that the verdicts of juries would be assimilated to verdicts in civil cases, just as their verdicts when under review would be reviewed on the same principle. No doubt there were cases in which there had been miscarriages of justice, which had shocked the public, but they were wrong if they thought there was no substitute for the remedy which this Bill proposed. He recognised that there was a number of things that required alteration in the administration of the criminal law. First of all, to his mind it was essential to secure that the men who administered justice in every Court should be from the highest to the lowest the men best fitted for the duties they were called upon to fulfil. Why was it, if this measure had some measure of justice in it, it was right to apply it to England and not to Scotland? This Bill was not applied to Scotland, because there was no claim for it from that country, where the Judges except in the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction were paid men appointed on account of their fitness for the office. He had no doubt that the criminal law required revision, and that there was a great deal that required amendment in the administration of justice; but the first thing was to secure that they had men on the Bench in Quarter Sessions and elsewhere fitted to discharge the duties entrusted to them. If this were a Bill for that purpose he would give it his most cordial support, because he believed it would be found that where questions were raised with regard to a judgment or sentence it arose from a weakened confidence in the tribunal. It was no use disguising the fact that the judgment of our Judges had ceased to command the confidence of the public and of the profession. The reason was plain, and the cause might be removed. Judicial offices, from the highest to the lowest, had been tossed to this man and to that as a reward for Party service, or, still worse, for personal favour. The Lord Chancellor said he wanted to keep these promotions outside the pestilential atmosphere of Party service. It ought to be an improper thing for a Government to appoint a man who was notoriously unfit, he did not say by reason of his character, but by reason of disposition or temper, of the lack of learning and experience, to discharge the duties he was called upon to fulfil. If steps were taken to secure that every man who administered the law was a man fit to administer it, the main cause for this Bill would have disappeared, and there would be removed from the great profession to which he belonged the taint which had always clung to it—the taint of time service.

MR. F. E. SMITH said that while he did not dissent from the view that Judges should be appointed without regard to political considerations, or rather that incompetent persons should be appointed merely because they were politicians, statistics showed that appeals during the last ten years were not substantially fewer from the decision of those Judges who had formerly taken no part in Party politics than from the decision of those who before being raised to the bench were active politicians.

MR. BUCKMASTER: I cannot agree; but in any case that is not the question. The question is—Who are the Judges who command the confidence of the public and of the profession? I unhesitatingly say the men who enjoy that confidence to the least degree are the men who have been the subject of political appointments, who ought never to have been made Judges.

MR. F. E. SMITH said that, having been responsible both for prosecution and for defence on capital charges, he had felt the desirability of an appeal on questions both of law and of fact. There was, indeed, absolute unanimity that there ought to be an appeal on questions of law. He could not, however, agree with his right hon. friend the late Home Secretary, that it was either undesirable or impracticable to have an appeal on questions of fact. They were told that it would weaken the care and attention given by juries to criminal cases. But those who practised before juries in civil cases (which might involve the issue of fraud) would refuse to assent to the view that the care they gave in those cases was in any way lessened by the knowledge that there was an appeal. If responsibility had not been sapped in civil cases, why should it be sapped in criminal cases? Unless they gave an appeal on questions of fact they would not deal with cases of the kind which had most shocked and exercised the public conscience of the country in the past. He would deal with a few of those cases. In 1867 a man called Wiggins was hanged in London on the capital charge, and since his execution the most disquieting doubts had been widely entertained on not unsubstantial grounds as to the propriety of the sentence. He could give the House a large number of cases indeed where men who, after undergoing their sentence and the horrors it entailed, were found to be innocent. There was the case of Palizzione in 1865; Harbron of Manchester; the Durham case of Hayes and Slane in 1873; of three men hanged at Leicester in 1877, there was no doubt that two were innocent; and the well-known Chester case in 1889. As an illustration he would take the case of Palizzione, who was tried in 1865 for the murder of Michael Harrington before a most careful Judge, whose appointment had been non-political—Baron Martin. That Judge told the jury that he had never heard more direct or more conclusive evidence. The prisoner was sentenced to death, but respited. A humane student of the case, a Mr. Negretti, exercised himself and collected new evidence. Upon that new evidence Palizzione was respited by the Home Office, and finally the minor charge of manslaughter was brought against another man, Palizzione's cousin, who confessed that he had been guilty of the crime of which Palizzione had been convicted. What was the position of the hon. and learned Gentleman who had just spoken? He was content to say that, because there might be some possible disadvantage, they should not deal with it at all. It was simply horrible that even in one case such a thing should be possible, and that there should be no chance of the interposition of a Court of Appeal to alter it. Had appellate tribunals any value at all in civil matters? Was the cumulative experience derived from the fact that they had sitting to deal with these matters of appeal, four, five, or six trained minds to give a fuller and more dispassionate consideration to the sentence, of no value? If that were so, let them sweep away the whole appellate system. In this way they would effect economy while ending an expensive superfluity. That view, however, could not be put forward. If it was necessary that in civil matters an opportunity of revision on the most trivial points should be given, and within limits on issues of fact, it was intolerable that on issues of life and death the same safeguards against error should not be provided. As to questions of fact hon. and learned Gentlemen had to found themselves on some distinction between criminal and civil issues. If it was the general sense of the House that there should be an appeal on questions of fact, how far was it necessary to reinforce that view? He would reinforce it by a single illustration. He thought the Home Secretary had spoken with thinly veiled reference to the Edalji case. He did not intend to allude to it except to show how very inadequate the present remedy of appeal to the Home Office was for dealing with cases of that kind. The Report said that the case was one for strict ruling, for several reasons which it gave, that the findings of the Committee were of the most disquieting kind. The police in the case set to work to deal with the charge against this man with the bias against him that he was guilty, and the Report of the Committee which inquired into the case said the conviction was unsatisfactory, and that after a most careful consideration of all the facts—not, it would be observed, the law—of the case, they could not agree with the verdict of the jury. Yet they added that the case was one in which the accepted practice of the Home Office did not warrant the Home Secretary in interfering with the sentence inasmuch as no fresh evidence had been discovered. He most profoundly dissented from that sentence of the Home Secretary in which the right hon. Gentleman said there were many cases in which the verdict was unsatisfactory but it was not safe to grant a free pardon. It had always been the pride of our jurisprudence as contrasted with that of Scotland and of other countries that we knew no half-way house between guilty and not guilty. If the prosecution could not satisfactorily prove the guilt of the prisoner, he should be treated as innocent. Yet, in the Edalji case, they had a Committee finding that the verdict was unsatisfactory. The practice of the Home Office had always been not to re-open cases merely to reconsider evidence which had been already fully examined at the trial. A Court which would not reconsider evidence and would only act if fresh evidence was adduced was no Court of Appeal at all. The only appellate tribunal for a prisoner in this country was the Home Office, and that only when fresh evidence was obtained, or, where there was no fresh evidence, where there had been inadequate and improper treatment of the existing evidence. There was no right of appeal so far as fact was concerned. It would be idle to deny, on the part of those who were anxious to see reform, that there was great force in the practical objections urged against the Bill by his hon. and learned friend. Let them consider those objections. In the first place, the over-ruling of the decision of a jury on questions of fact by a number of Judges deciding by a majority was open to grave objection, but that was a point which might be considered in Committee, with reference to the alternative method of sending the case back for a new trial. The common sense of the community would be very much shocked by the idea that the jury, who had seen the witnesses in the witness box and could judge whether they were to be believed or not, were to be over-ruled by three out of five judges sitting in London, who would not see the witnesses. It would require very careful consideration which plan would be preferable, and at present he was not at all sure that he himself did not prefer the method of a new trial. But they were told that the number of applications in such cases would be very great indeed. Upon that point Sir Harry Poland had written a letter to *The Times* which was deserving of the most careful attention. He pointed out that the present Bill was unworkable, and even those who differed from Sir Harry Poland must recognise that his opinion was entitled to the highest weight. Sir Harry Poland pointed out that, in 1905, 604 petitions were sent to the Home Secretary on the ground of wrongful conviction, and 850 on the ground that the sentence was too heavy, and that in that year 10,800 people were convicted on indictment. As to the number of appeals which would have to be heard, therefore, he was not himself greatly impressed by the figures put forward by Sir Harry Poland and other critics of the Bill. So far as questions of fact were concerned there would be no appeal, except by leave of the Court of Appeal, to raise the matter by way of appeal, and he gathered that they could not apply to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal except on notice to the other side. Assuming that the number of applications was very considerable, he saw no reason for supposing the number of applications for a new trial would be in excess of the number of petitions now presented to the Home Office, and he had no doubt that the Court would be able to deal successfully with a very large number of these applications in a very short time. There was another safeguard. The time during which the appeal was pending would not be taken off the sentence, and he found it difficult to believe that men who were conscious of guilt would add to the period of their imprisonment for the mere pleasure and excitement of seeing a solicitor in London. If they took the number of persons who pleaded guilty he thought they would find that the applications would not be so many as has had been suggested. He could speak of the appointment of new Judges with greater freedom, perhaps, than those who had a more exalted position in the profession. He thought it essential, if the Bill was to be successfully carried out, that there should be a considerable addition to the strength of the High Court Bench, and the House, if convinced that the Court of Appeal would check doubtful convictions, would not shrink from providing the extra expenditure involved. In the belief that cases had occurred in the past which ought to satisfy them that there was doubt and uncertainty in some convictions, and that the doubt and uncertainty might be to some extent removed by the proposals of the Bill, and reserving to himself the fullest possible liberty to consider what was the best method of providing an appeal on questions of fact, he asked the House to allow the Bill to be read a second time.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said that, whatever might be the view of hon. Members as to the merits of this Bill, no one would be disposed to cast any doubt upon the circumstances which brought this matter to a head. It was the intention of the Bill to secure immunity from conviction to innocent persons, and he was glad to think they were going to discuss the Bill and vote upon it without any restraint of Party obligations. It was obvious that that must be so, because they might reasonably assume that, to whatever party they belonged, all Members were alike concerned in seeing that the administration of justice was as perfect as possible. No political considerations were involved in matters of that kind; they were all concerned in the serious purpose of protecting the innocent from unjust conviction. In dealing with the Bill, and it was not the first time that he had spoken in the House upon this topic, he set aside all minor considerations. He did not care about expense, delay, or inconvenience. Those were matters for which they must take the responsibility. The sole test to apply in dealing with this measure was the test of whether they were likely to secure for innocent persons or persons unjustly convicted an opportunity of putting right the wrong to which they had been exposed. Therefore he asked hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House to believe that in the observations which he proposed to make he was solely concerned with the interests of the accused persons. The main consideration which everybody should have in their mind with regard to this question was whether, in giving this somewhat limited right of appeal to persons convicted on indictment, they were doing anything which might tend to shake the responsibility of the primary tribunal. If they could reasonably assure themselves that the wrong which had been done in justice would be put right, if they could assure themselves that the tribunal to which the appeal lay would, in the vast majority of cases, right the wrong that had been committed by the primary tribunal, that consideration went. But unless they could satisfy themselves that by this Bill the tribunal of appeal would almost invariably set right the wrong which had been committed, that consideration must have the greatest weight. He could not speak with any large experience; he could speak with some experience as counsel and some experience in a minor capacity, but he could say, without fear, that there was nothing that weighed more in the mind of the tribunal that had to deal with criminal cases than the fact that the decision at which they arrived would be for all practical purposes final. It might not be final to the extent that a man might not be released from prison afterwards, but so far as the conviction stood, it was final because the conviction remained. By this Bill they were going to shake that sense of responsibility. Did anyone believe it was not felt? Let them go to the Criminal Court and listen to what the advocate said. The advocate would invariably appeal to the jury in almost hysterical language, and tell them that if they found the man guilty they would consign him to prison, from which there was no escape, and that they would fasten on him a conviction from which there was no emancipation. For his part he would say that it was better that there should be an occasional miscarriage of justice than that they should afford an opportunity for the exercise of less vigilance and care on the part of the tribunal. He knew the most plausible argument which had been adduced in favour of this Court of Appeal was that if there was a controversy about twopence in a civil action they could go on without leave from court to court, from tribunal to tribunal; that they could go to the keenest intellect in the land for the purpose of arriving at the momentous decision as to whom that twopence belonged; but that in the case of the life and liberty of a man they could not. By analogy that argument was used for supporting a measure of this kind. It was said that human life and liberty might be at stake, and yet to the men whose life and liberty were at stake they denied the opportunity of appeal which they conceded to others in regard to disputes concerning property. It was a plausible argument but as fallacious as plausible. In the first place, if they took a civil action the issues were usually various and complex. But in a criminal case the issue was single and simple. Obviously a civil case afforded many more grounds, many more opportunities of raising questions than a criminal case. Secondly, in civil actions there arose numerous points of law, more or less difficult to settle, while in the criminal case the law was crystallised, and it was very rarely that difficult or complex questions of law arose, except perhaps in commercial cases. Thirdly, there was not the same sense of responsibility on the part of the tribunal in the civil case that there was in the criminal case. There was more liberty. He could give, if necessary, further illustrations as to why there should be an an appeal in civil, but not in criminal cases. In a civil case there were many points which arose which took the other side by surprise, but such points could not arise in a criminal case. He would remind the Home Secretary that the indictment itself was, in fact, an appeal. The case had already been heard, all the evidence had been recorded, and no questions of surprise could arise, and if any additional witness was brought in on the trial, a copy of the proof of the evidence that that witness would give had to be supplied to the other side. Therefore there was no analogy between civil and criminal cases. The magistrate, it was true, did not go into the merits of the case, except so far as to ascertain whether there was a *prima facie* case against the prisoner. He only committed him when he found there was a *prima facie* case. But that was not the point of his argument. The whole point of his argument was that while the evidence differed in the civil case, in a criminal case it was set out, and from that evidence no departure could be made. Therefore, when a criminal case came on for trial it had already been thrashed out, so far as the evidence was concerned, before the first tribunal. Let the House observe that there were very few appeals in civil actions merely on questions of fact. He did not forget that recently they had had that innovation in trials without jury where facts as well as law could be reviewed, but in all cases where there was a trial by jury the appeal was to decide questions of law. It was perfectly true that they might go to the Court of Appeal on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, but the Attorney-General knew perfectly well that it was very rarely indeed that the Court of Appeal had disturbed the decision on that ground. It was only when they were satisfied that the verdict was a perverse verdict that they interfered. He would now examine the Bill, and he thought he would be able to satisfy the House that it was open to the most stringent objections. First of all, the appeal was to be on points of law, and there were very few appeal on points of law in criminal cases, partly because the machinery for that purpose was non-existent, but mainly because very few points of law rose. But the man who would benefit from this Bill was the male factor. He was not the ordinary criminal, the petty larceny man. The men who would invoke the Court of Appeal would be the fraudulent company promoter and the fraudulent bankrupt; men of the type of those who had been tried by a jury and sentenced after a verdict of their countrymen. So far as the common criminal was concerned the appeal on a question of law might be dismissed. The test which was applied by the Judge and which he directed the jury to observe at a criminal trial was this—that if they had any reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner they were to acquit him. The test was not that if they had any reasonable choice to convict they might convict him, but if they had any reasonable doubt as to his guilt they must acquit him. Let them assume the man was convicted and he said to his solicitor, "Surely there was a reasonable doubt in this case of which I ought to have the benefit. I ought not to be convicted on evidence of this character." Then his solicitor replied, "True, but you have not to satisfy the Court of Appeal that there is a reasonable doubt of your guilt, you have to satisfy the Court of Appeal that no twelve reasonable men ought to have come to that decision." The section of the Bill said that the Court of Appeal should allow the appeal if they thought the verdict of the jury should be set aside on any ground on which a verdict of the jury might or should be set aside in a civil action. Now the verdict of the jury in a civil case could only be set aside if it was a perverse verdict. How many verdicts of juries in criminal cases could be set aside in the Court of Criminal Appeal on the ground that they were perverse? A totally different standard was applied to the trial of criminal cases, and for that reason the Bill was fatuous and could not operate. That was a fatal blot on the Bill, and destroyed all its value for this purpose. But the matter unfortunately did not end there. Hon. Members would agree with him that if there was to be an appeal that appeal should be as free as air, there should be no restriction. If they were to go to the Court of Appeal upon any civil dispute, still more should they have a right to go to the Court of Criminal Appeal upon any question. But if they appealed in criminal cases they were saddled with this penalty, that the time the appeal was pending should not be counted as part of the sentence. A man was committed, and said to his attorney that he was of opinion that there was a reasonable doubt. The attorney agreed, but pointed out that he had not to satisfy the Court that there was a reasonable doubt of his guilt, but to satisfy them that twelve reasonable men ought not to have come to the conclusion they did; that if he appealed he might have to wait six months before his case came on—because the House must remember that there were 10,000 convictions annually in this country, and many were of persons well able to avail themselves of the facilities of this Bill on account of their wealthy connections; during that time he would have to remain in prison, and if the appeal did not succeed that six months would not count towards the sentence. Would not the criminal in many cases say that if the same test was not to be applied in the Court of Appeal as was applied by the jury, he had better take his sentence rather than appeal with that penalty over his head? He knew the difficulties of the position, he knew that the public conscience had been excited recently in cases which had been dealt with most unsatisfactorily by the Home Office. He was not referring now to the recent case of Edalji; he was referring to the case of Beck. He admitted that the machinery for securing the acquittal of an innocent man was very unsatisfactory and very incomplete; but the House must bear in mind the fact that, although the machinery was incomplete, they were now making a departure which was not sanctioned by the jurisprudence of any civilised country which they were entitled to regard. In France it was true there was an appeal limited to matters of law. The Home Office was unsatisfactory, because if a man was convicted he wrote to the Home Office, and they wrote to the officials connected with the case, to the Judge and others connected with the trial, and asked for a copy of the depositions, and also for a copy of the notes of the learned Judge who tried the case. All that was worthless. Lord Justice Fitzjames Stephen, than whom no greater authority on criminal matters ever existed, expressed his conviction that legislation of this kind would be the death-blow of trial by jury. He would not go so far as that himself, but he would go as far as to say that the administration of the Home Office would be improved if it provided competent men, trained men who could be obtained from the junior ranks of the Bar and servants of the Crown, whose duty should not be in the first instance to judge, and try, and read depositions, but to inquire *de novo*, and then to direct as a result of that investigation whether or not there should be a new trial. The Home Office had much larger powers than this appellant tribunal could possibly enjoy. The tribunal could only deal with the evidence before it; they had no means of calling any fresh evidence. The Home Office had. He believed that if they improved the machinery of the Home Office and provided it with a staff who could undertake the duties of investigation, and empowered the Home Secretary to direct a new trial, they would meet all the reasonable requirements of law and justice. It was with the greatest reluctance, however, that he opposed this measure, because he knew it had been undertaken with the best possible motive. He felt that so far from an innocent prisoner gaining from it, the effect would be to weaken the sense of responsibility and diminish the vigilance, although it would not impair the equity, of the Court of first instance. For these reasons, and after very careful and prolonged thought, he had come to the conclusion that, so far from this Bill assisting injured innocence, it would tend rather to put difficulties in the way of the administration of justice.

*MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.), as one who had taken a great interest in the question, said he rejoiced that the Government were pressing forward this Bill with a view to passing it into law. Objections had been raised to it on various grounds. There were some who said that the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal was neither necessary nor desirable, but that if there was anything wrong the Home Secretary would set it right, and the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal would be not only unsatisfactory, but even less favourable to the prisoner than the present practice. That view seemed to him to confuse two essential functions, namely, the functions of the Court of Appeal and the exercise of the clemency of the Crown. These two functions were united in the one person of the Home Secretary, and the fact that they were so united led to misapprehension and confusion. If the Bill should establish the most complete and comprehensive Court of Criminal Appeal that they could possibly conceive, it would still be necessary to retain the prerogative of mercy which lay in the very nature of law, for law would be absolutely intolerable if the community did not reserve in some person the power, in suitable cases, to remit or mitigate the penalties imposed by law. But the mischief of the present system was that the Home Secretary had to use a kind of machinery which might be appropriate to the prerogative of mercy, while he was really discharging the functions of a Court of Criminal Appeal. In recent years there had been several cases where the unsatisfactory nature of the present system had been brought to the public attention. In the Maybrick case the capital penalty was remitted by the Crown, and the Home Secretary of the day declared that there was the most grave and serious doubt as to whether any act of Mrs. Maybrick had brought about the death of her husband, but that he was convinced that Mrs. Maybrick intended to murder her husband; and so during all those years she had been imprisoned for a crime for which she had never been tried, and a crime of which she could not have been found guilty on the indictment on which she was tried and on an issue which was not strictly raised upon the trial. But the case did not end there. The then Lord Chief Justice, speaking as the head of the English Judiciary, declared his opinion that Mrs. Maybrick ought to be released. He submitted his reasons to the Home Secretary of the day, who declined to act upon his recommendation, and Mrs. Maybrick remained in prison. In the case of Mr. Beck it was perfectly true that there would not have been a miscarriage of justice if there had been power in the Judge to state a question of law. The whole difficulty was that no such power existed. But the Beck case threw a flood of light upon the methods and spirit of the Home Office. The Report of that case showed that the spirit which dominated the Home Office when a case had to be investigated was one of unreasonable deference to the opinion of the Judge. It might be meritorious in a Minister of the Crown to show that deference. There might be serious inconvenience in a Minister of the Crown being able to do anything which might impair the authority of the Judiciary; but the conclusion which he drew from the spirit which dominated the Home Office in investigating these petitions was that the Minister of the Crown ought not to have to perform the functions of a Court of Criminal Appeal, because it was perfectly evident that if he approached the question of revising a sentence in an unreasonable spirit of deference to the trial Judge, he could not possibly perform those functions properly. Therefore, they ought to be taken away from the Minister and handed to a properly constituted legal tribunal. There were objections of other kinds to the Bill. It was said that it was far too large a Bill, that it would produce a block of appeals, and that it would be unworkable. In regard to that he did not think that the Bill went further than the Bill introduced in 1883 by a Liberal Government. It was introduced by the then Attorney-General, now Lord James of Hereford, supported by Lord Herschell and Sir William Harcourt. That Bill not only passed the Second Reading but it was very carefully considered by Grand Committee upstairs and passed through that Commttee unscathed. With regard to the present Bill being too large he wanted to ask hon. Gentlemen who took up that position what they proposed as an alternative. The only suggestion which he had heard was that they should give to the Home Secretary power in the exercise of his own descretion to refuse a petition, or, if he thought there was any doubt as to the conviction, to refer the case to a Court. He thought that there were very grave objections to limiting the Bill in that way. It seemed to him that such a state of the law would be a direct encouragement — in fact, it would be putting a premium on the re-trial of sensational cases in the public Press. It would operate in this way. In popular and picturesque cases an agitation would be got up, and the Home Secretary, not unnaturally desiring to have a quiet life, would no doubt refer such cases to the Court of Appeal. So far as the ordinary run of cases were concerned there was no question of popularity or of sensationalism, and he did not see that they would be in any degree better than they were at the present time. No feasible alternative to the Bill had been suggested. There were difficulties which he frankly admitted, in the way of the position taken up by the Attorney-General the other day, namely, that the public sentiment demanded that they should give to the convicted person a substantial appellate right similar to that which was already given to a civil litigant, or, as the Attorney-General said, they should place liberty at all events on the same level as property. An hon. Member had told them that afternoon that that analogy was false, and that civil actions differed from criminal trials. Of course they differed, but he submitted that no advocate on the other side had shown that civil and criminal trials differed in those respects which would make it right to refuse in one case the appeal which was given in the other. They had heard a good deal that afternoon about the sanctity of the verdict of the jury—the verdict in criminal cases and not in civil actions. His hon. and learned friend who preceded him had mentioned the name of a lawyer, which was received with great respect—the name of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen—and he had quoted him as an authority against the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal. Might he point out that in 1878 Sir James Stephen was one of a committee of four who reported in favour of a Court of Criminal Appeal, and the other three members of the Commission were Lord Blackburn, Mr. Justice Lush and Mr. Justice Barry? Those who desired to insist upon the sanctity of the verdict of the jury in criminal cases based their objection to the present proposal on the constitutional ground that a man was entitled to be tried by his peers. But the Bill did not really challenge that proposition at all, because the convicted person had already been tried by his peers. It was said that it would impair the responsibility of the jury. At the present time the tendency of juries was certainly in favour of acquittal. Lord Bramwell once went so far as to say that the great source of injustice in this country was the fact that juries would acquit when they ought to convict. If that were so, he could not think that this ingrained habit of the British jury would be altered by the fact that they knew that it was just possible that their verdict might be upset. He did not think that very much weight was to be given to that argument. They might perhaps be reassured when they remembered that similar prophecies had often been made but had rarely been realised. With regard to the power to revise sentences, he noticed with regret, if he might say so, that in another place the Lord Chief Justice expressed strong disapproval of this proposal. His Lordship admitted that some years ago the Judges joined in a recommendation that this power should be given, but he explained that recommendation by the fact that the Home Secretary had been considerably troubled with regard to severe sentences which had been passed by a particular person at that time, and he added that the Judges never erred on the side of severity now. The answer in the first place was that the sentences complained of were mainly sentences passed by quarter sessions, and, secondly, the contingency to which the Lord Chief Justice referred was likely to occur at any moment. For these reasons it seemed to him desirable that this power of appeal should be given. The sentences of Judges varied in severity in cases that were practically identical. One Judge was particularly severe in commercial crimes, another in sexual cases, and so on, so that it seemed desirable that there should be greater uniformity. He was very glad to find that it was proposed to give power to increase a sentence on appeal as well as to reduce it. The advantage of that would be greater uniformity of sentences, and the restoration to some extent, he hoped, of the public confidence, which had been disturbed by the very unequal sentences which had been given in apparently similar cases. He desired to say one word with regard to the argument that the Bill would be unworkable and that there would be a block of appeals. The Bill certainly discouraged the resort to technicalities. It expressly provided that on appeal, although on a particular issue raised the Court might be of opinion that there was some irregularity, the conviction could not be quashed if the Court were of opinion that no substantial miscarriage of justice had occurred. Probably at the first there might be a rush of appeals, and it would be, of course, for the Committee to consider very carefully how that probable rush could be regulated; but he felt convinced that when the system had settled down there would not be any very large number of cases, at any rate not such a number as could not be reasonably dealt with. Leave to appeal was to be obtained, and the hon. Gentleman opposite seemed to think that the time occupied in obtaining leave to appeal would be as long as the hearing of the appeal itself. He thought that was an extravagant and unreasonable supposition. It seemed to him that for the most part these applications for leave to appeal could be kept, ordinarily, within a very short compass. He had come to the conclusion that the Bill if it became an Act would have indirectly a very beneficial effect. It would, so to speak, tighten up and so improve the administration of justice, and magistrates and even Judges would be more careful when they knew that all their proceedings were subject to review; and the ultimate effect of the Bill might be to remove the anomaly under which at the present time laymen might preside over Courts with such large jurisdiction and extensive powers as Quarter Sessions possessed. He trusted that the Bill would become law, and that if it did become law it would set the public conscience at rest. He would like to conclude with the words of a very great man, who said that, in the administration of the criminal law, next to doing right the great object was to give public satisfaction.

Mr. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said there had been a good deal of agreement on both sides of the House on the subject of this Bill. There had also been in the course of the debate very little, hardly anything, he thought, said against the general verdicts of juries in criminal cases. He thought it had been admitted, as it was by the Home Secretary in 1898, that the cases of improper convictions without redress were almost infinitesimal. As regarded the form of criminal procedure in England he might read the description given by a French commissioner, who was sent over to this country by the French Government very many years ago, to investigate the subject of our judicial procedure. The description he gave was as true now as it was at the time he wrote it. He said—

> "English Judges are the defenders of the culprit. This remark, however forcible in itself, is far from conveying the full idea of the protection which the Judge affords to the prisoner. He treats him throughout the trial as an unfortunate being, and he is admirably seconded in that benevolence by the whole auditory—people, counsel, and jury."

That sounded strong, but he could say himself, having attended a great number of criminal trials long before he was called to the bar, that in England the attitude of the Judge, the jury, and the prosecuting counsel towards the prisoner, presented a spectacle than which, he said it with emphasis, none could be finer, and there was no better aspect in which the Government of a country could exhibit itself than the attitude of dignified and humane tenderness to misery, even if it were the misery of crime. If there was striking evidence of the leniency of our Criminal Courts on the one hand, on the other nobody could deny that those Courts were efficient. The last time he looked at the figures he found that something like 85 per cent. of those who were indicted were convicted. If the House compared the light in which criminal justice was regarded in this country and in foreign countries, especially in America, he thought that there would be agreement in saying that any move taken in the direction of reform should be undertaken with the greatest possible caution. All agreed that a Court of Appeal should be constituted, that questions of law should be submitted to it, and questions affecting the revision of sentences should be brought before it. These matters had been decided by a single individual, and it was necessary from time to time to correct the decisions of eccentrics in order to secure a better uniformity. It was not easy, however, to say how far it was desirable to give an unqualified appeal on questions of fact. The House must look at the conditions that would prevail if this right were granted. In the first place, there was a large number of cases at present tried summarily at Petty Sessions with the consent of the prisoner, and to the great relief of the Assize Courts. Every prisoner in future who wished to be tried and to have his case disposed of at once would have to be warned that if he elected to be tried in this way his case would not be made a subject of appeal. His right hon. friend the late Home Secretary had shown that in 1,500 cases out of 10,000 there were appeals to the Home Secretary from conviction or sentence by prisoners. The House must expect, therefore, to have at least as many cases in the future, and the prisoner would have to be told about his right of appeal and the expenses for counsel and solicitor. It was only necessary to think of the immense congestion of business and the long delays that must arise when cases like the recent case of the West Ham guardians, which occupied the Attorney-General fifteen days, came up for appeal. Those were the very cases in which there would be an appeal, and the expense of the appeal would be immense. There were only some 200 days in the whole year available for this enormous business. These difficulties were not conclusive; but it was right to consider gravely whether it was necessary to incur them when there was another way out without causing what he believed would be immense difficulties, scandals, and delays. He was astounded to hear the Home Secretary suggest that the Court of Appeal would be an expeditious tribunal, obviating the long delays of the Home Office procedure. The delay would be immense, and the scandal of it would be of such a kind that, as President Roosevelt had pointed out, it would discredit justice in general and fail to maintain equality between the rich and poor. Obviously, if they had people with very long purses reviewing these cases at great length blocks would occur for weeks and weeks whilst they were being reheard. The Home Secretary had dwelt at great length and with obvious feeling on the comments in the Press to which one in his office was exposed. He would be the last person to say that a Bill of this magnitude should be passed in order to save any Home Secretary from the buffets of the *Daily Mail.* That was one of the things which might be expected, and surely might be tolerated with equanimity. In any case this Bill would not save the Home Secretary from any serious onslaught. That Minister was only assailed in respect of difficult cases that attracted attention. Those were the cases that would go to the Court of Appeal, and the Judges of the Court of Appeal would often differ on them, the differences being rendered obvious in the course of a public trial. Would a single Press comment be abated in such circumstances? Criticism would fall on the Judges in the first place, but, if the Home Secretary refused to interfere, he would have to put up with all the comments that were likely to be made. The true moral of the right hon. Gentleman's references to the Press was not that the Court of Appeal should be set up to protect him, but that he should glean from the Press any new facts which it might be able to bring to his notice, and disregard its comments on his decisions. There was a residuum of cases in which, through no man's fault, there might be both in the mind of the Home Secretary and in that of the public a grave doubt as to the propriety of conviction. The suggestion which in the time of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge had the support of the full bench of Judges and of the Commission of Judges of which Sir James Stephen was a member was to give the Home Secretary power to refer cases of difficulty to the Judges, the Court having power to deal with all the circumstances on the same principles as those on which the Home Secretary was now supposed to act. That would provide a means of satisfying the doubts of the Home Secretary and of enabling him, where it seemed desirable, to assuage the public mind, while it would get rid of the delays of a Court of Appeal and of the grave constitutional difficulty presented by the practice of Judges overriding the verdict of juries, because, under the scheme he referred to, the Judges could order a new trial. No doubt some distinguished lawyers had changed their minds on this question. The Attorney-General had done so, mainly because of the increase of newspaper agitation. But he wished to insist on the fact that the setting up of this Court of Appeal would not get rid of the opportunity for newspaper agitation. The newspapers were, after all, exercising a right, though they might sometimes exercise it in a regrettable manner, and as Sir James Stephen had said, these manifestations were a grotesque but powerful security against injustice and oppression. Was it to be imagined that those who expressed themselves in this way in regard to the tribunals of the country and to the Home Secretary would desist from doing so because a Court of Criminal Appeal consisting of Judges was set up? Not at all. On the contrary, he believed that the same liberty of criticism would continue to prevail, and that in cases which were close to the line, and about which it was evident there was some judicial doubt, the newspaper agitation would be conducted with even greater vehemence than it was at present. He should not vote against the Second Reading of the Bill, because he heartily acclaimed many of its provisions, but unless in Committee some modifications of the Bill on questions of fact in the direction he had indicated were made, he should certainly reserve his right to vote against it on Third Reading.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds S.) said there could be little doubt that in recent years there had been a considerable develop ment of opinion in regard to this question. The right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had indicated the view which he had expressed in the House some years ago, and he confessed that later events had very much modified that opinion. The right hon. Gentleman had rightly stated that he then thought that the tribunal of the Home Office was an adequate Court of Appeal for the review of verdicts and sentences in criminal cases. But the right hon. Gentleman would agree with him that, since then, there had been two circumstances of considerable moment in the history of this question and of the criminal law. In the first place, prisoners had been allowed to give evidence in their own defence. The cross-examination of these prisoners had rendered enormously more difficult the conduct of criminal trials, and had, therefore, made it more important that there should be some tribunal to review the effect of the evidence, very largely modified by the statements of a highly-interested person. The second consideration was this. The Home Office had been the subject of investigation by a Royal Commission, and he thought it had been clear that, admirable as the machinery was for many of its purposes, it could not be held by any jurist to correspond in any satisfactory degree to a tribunal of criminal appeal. They had, therefore, arrived at this position. All of them were agreed that there should be some provision for the review of evidence upon which convictions in criminal cases rested, and the Home Office was, at present, the only provision which the law had made for a revision of that kind. He did not want to follow the Home Secretary and others who had indicated the many objections which could be raised to that investigation by a State Department, but he thought the House would agree that that investigation, and the results, did not inspire public confidence. It was not conducted by judicial minds. There was no representation of the accused, there was no argument, and the reasons upon which the judgment rested were not disclosed and were unknown to the public. The result, therefore, was that the Home Secretary could not satisfy public criticism by showing the grounds which had actuated him in the conclusion at which he had arrived. The right hon. Gentleman opposite a little underrated the harassing and distressing character of the Parliamentary pressure which might be brought to bear in regard to matters which were judicial in their nature where the investigation was conducted by the Home Office. There undoubtedly had been, of late, a tendency to criticise the proceedings of the Home Secretary in a tone which would not be tolerated by any judicial tribunal in the country. The right hon. Gentleman said they ought to brace themselves to meet attacks of that nature. He quite accepted that counsel. He did not for a moment say that they ought not to brace themselves to meet such attacks. At all events, the Home Secretary was under an obligation of that sort; but no one would say that it did not very considerably embarrass the discharge of functions which were judicial in their character and which were often exceedingly difficult and delicate. They would, therefore, have made a great advance in their legal system if they cast the burden of an investigation which was essentially judicial in its character upon a judicial tribunal and left the Home Secretary to fulfil that function which naturally belonged to his office—the advising of the Crown with regard to the exercise of the prerogative of clemency. He thought there was no little encouragement to be drawn from this debate in the fact that so few lawyers were against the principle of the Bill. When lawyers abandoned theguns he thought the position might be said to be indefensible. Last year a worse Bill than this had passed the House of Lords, and if that home of legal conservatism saw no great mischief in the proposal, he thought they might pass it as a perfectly safe measure. The movement in favour of a Bill of this kind had fluctuated from time to time, but the tide had been rising, and he thought they might now say that it was high water. He would leave the hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University and the hon. and learned Member for one of the divisions of Hampshire to share between them the credit of representing Mrs. Partington in their effort to keep back the waves.

There were one or two topics of cardinal criticism to which he thought he ought to devote some little attention. It had been proposed that the Bill should suffer a process of bisection, that they should, if possible, cut it into two and pass so much of it as allowed an appeal on questions of law and reject so much as allowed an appeal on fact. That seemed to him to be, if a possible, at all events a highly unsatisfactory suggestion. They had now an appeal on questions of law, subject to the leave of the Judge who presided at the trial, and if all they were to do was to abolish the necessity of leave being given, it seemed an advance in the law scarcely worth the trouble of making. But his objection was more serious. He doubted whether it was possible to dissever, he thought it was not useful to attempt to dissever, questions of law from questions of fact where they were creating a tribunal of review, and where they intended that the scope of that review should be thorough and satisfactory. Every lawyer knew that the region of legal fact and the region of law sometimes became so much involved that it was hard to discriminate. What they wanted was that the whole of the elements that tended to lead to a miscarriage of justice should be subject to the re-examination of another tribunal. If there was a summing up which was legally correct but inadequate, if certain points were concealed if they were calculated to mislead the jury, these were certainly not matters to be left out of consideration by an Appeal Court because they did not fall within the domain of law. Supposing they had a case which was ill-conducted by the counsel for the prisoner, supposing he neglected to put questions which he ought to have put, supposing there was evidence which he might have called but had not called—all these were matters essential to enable a Court of review to deal with the case satisfactorily and to form a judgment as to whether a conviction ought or ought not to stand. Yet he thought he was right in saying that these considerations belonged rather to the domain of fact than the domain of law.

There was another argument which had been used in the course of the debate, namely, that if they allowed an appeal from the verdict of a jury, they impaired the sense of responsibility under which juries acted. He had heard that argument in high judicial quarters, and he had heard it with great surprise, because they had, in this matter, their experience in civil Courts to guide them as to the attitude that juries assumed towards all cases which involved reflections upon reputation or upon character, and to those cases which imputed misconduct or fraud. They all knew that there was nothing more difficult than to get a verdict in such a case. They all knew that where a charge carried with it the penalty of social ostracism, or where it involved penal results, the attitude of the jury was always strongly against the plaintiff's case, and they insisted on a high standard of proof before they would incriminate the defendant by their verdict. And yet in all those cases there was an appeal, and the fact that there was an appeal did not impair the feeling of the jury that the question of fact was for them, and that, if the penalties were to follow, they would follow upon their finding, dealing with issues that were within their province. The mere consideration that the finding was subject to the review of a Court of Appeal, he was satisfied, would have little or no influence on their mind. In a civil case a jury were sometimes overborne by their sympathy with the plaintiff. In a criminal case the Crown was prosecutor, and there was no claim for compensation; there was no redress asked for by a plaintiff, and therefore the jury had solely to regard the issue as one involving the penalties which attended their verdict against the accused person, and they would know that in all ordinary cases that verdict was final. The submission of the whole trial, fact and law, to a tribunal of review would be attended by this great incidental advantage. Every chairman of quarter sessions who tried a criminal would know that the proceedings of his Court might be reviewed by a Court of Appeal, and he thought the fact that justice in every quarter of the country would be discharged subject to that feeling and subject to the sense of responsibility which that feeling would create was an immense advantage in the administration of the law.

In reference to a new trial, the hon. and learned Member for the Walton Division had not made up his mind. As the Bill was originally drawn the appeal was to be finally disposed of, and there was to be no new trial. Under pressure in the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor last year gave way, and made provision for a new trial to be ordered at the discretion of the Court of Criminal Appeal. All he could say was that, after giving the matter most careful consideration—because it was a matter in regard to which different minds might take different views—he had come very strongly to the conclusion that it was absolutely essential that the Court of Criminal Appeal should finally determine the matter. To his mind, it was almost unthinkable that they should put a prisoner on a second trial for a miscarriage of the first trial for which he was in no way responsible. To subject him to that ordeal, consistently with giving him the benefit of the doubt, after they had created the doubt by the order of the Court of Appeal directing the new trial, was to subject him to a second trial with almost perfect certainty that he would be acquitted. The mere fact that a second trial had been ordered would lead the jury to the conclusion that there was some doubt and difficulty in the case, and there would be a very strong tendency to give the defendant, after undergoing two trials, the benefit of a verdict which it would be argued he ought to have had on the first occasion. Then the practical difficulties of a new trial were almost overwhelming. Witnesses had to be detained, for many of them might be sailors who wished to go abroad, and their expenses would have to be provided for; and they would have to have all the material ready for reproduction. Those were all very serious disadvantages; and then there was the difficulty of a second trial of some case which had excited great public attention and stirred deep public sympathy. Imagine a second trial in such a case as that of Mrs. Maybrick. They had a fresh jury brought, witnesses all called again, a new Judge, and a new proceeding. His right hon. friend the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, said that the same thing would be done in the Court of Criminal Appeal. He confessed he did not agree. It was only proposed here to give to the Court of Appeal a similar power of review to that given to the Court of Appeal in civil cases. The appeal in a civil case was a re-hearing, and he had himself examined and cross-examined before a Court of Appeal witnesses whom that Court had summoned for the purpose of elucidating some obscurity in the case under investigation, and all that was intended here was that the same functions should be discharged by the Court of Criminal Appeal in the same method and with almost identical powers.

MR. LYTTELTON: Is it really proposed by the Bill to try a capital case by affidavit or on Judge's notes?

*SIR JOHN WALTON said he was glad the right hon. and learned Gentleman had asked that question. The right hon. and learned Gentleman was perfectly familiar with the process of appeal in a civil Court. In the Court of Criminal Appeal the representative of the prisoner would be called upon to indicate what his case was. Counsel would be heard, and he would point out what were the grounds on which he sought to sustain his contention. The Court of Appeal would have before them the evidence on the Judge's notes, and the usual materials, supplemented here and there, it might be, by extracts from shorthand notes, and the Court might then say that they thought there was no ground whatever for disturbing the conviction and dismiss the appeal; or they might say, "We should like to hear one of the witnesses called before us," or, it might be, more than one, so that questions might be put on a definite point which was entirely overlooked at the trial. That was a power which the Court of Appeal in civil cases possessed, although it might be that it was infrequently exercised. It was all-important that that power should be possessed if their Court of Appeal was to be a Court of effective review. But there was no notion of going through the form of hearing all over again the evidence which had been given below. Then there was the argument, used in another place, that, if they allowed a Court of Criminal Appeal to enter a verdict of acquittal after a jury had convicted, they would be interfering with trial by jury. The answer to that contention was that the right of trial by jury had already been enjoyed, and what they gave to the accused under the Bill was something above and beyond what he got by trial by jury. They had heard various speeches which alleged that the scheme was unworkable; but, if that criticism was used in the sense that the machinery was ineffective for the purpose of enabling the accused person to bring his appeal under the arbitrament of the Court, he entirely challenged its justice. He had taken the utmost pains to ensure that, so far as machinery went, the Bill should be a workable Bill. It might be costly, but it would certainly ensure that every man would be able to exercise the right given him of appealing. But, it was said, the expense would be overwhelming. If it were true that the maintenance of public confidence in the administration of criminal law demanded the creation of such a tribunal, then no argument of expense could outweigh the arguments of public interest. But he was by no means of opinion that the expense would be very great. There would, of course, be the expense of the permanent staff. The further cost depended upon their estimate of the number of appeals that would probably result from this legislation. Some hon. Members had thought that the Bill would call into existence a whole army of litigious convicts, and that there would be hundreds and thousands of them wanting to come before the Court. He did not in any way share such a highly imaginary view. Let them take the ordinary case of a prisoner who had been convicted. Probably in ninety-nine out of a 100 cases he was guilty and knew he was guilty. He knew that he had had a fair trial. Was it at all probable that such a man would avail himself of this machinery and bring an appeal under the consideration of the Court? The whole foundation for that inference, which was drawn from the number of petitions to the Home Office, was wholly misleading. The Home Secretary assured him that not half of these petitions could properly be made the subject of appeals to a Criminal Appeal Court. Most of them drew attention to family relations and other matters which might work upon the humane feelings of the Home Secretary, and grounds which could not be rationally stated for the consideration of a Court of Criminal Appeal. His hon. friend said that the number of appeals would be much greater than the number of petitions now addressed to the Home Office; but, as he had said, most of those appeals to the Home Office rested on grounds which could not be taken to a Court of Appeal. Of course, in the case of a man labouring under the sense of intolerable injustice of suffering for a crime of which he was innocent, nothing would stop him from appealing. But in the case of an old criminal there were various checks which would prevent him from wasting the time of the Court. The time spent over the appeal would not count as part of the sentence; and that would be a salutary check in the case of a guilty man who thought of appealing on the off-chance of escaping punishment. Moreover, the leave of the Court of Appeal would have to be obtained. It was not intended that that should be a mere perfunctory function; in other words, that the Court should grant as of course leave to appeal. When all the materials were collected, as they would be by the proper officer of the Court, when the grounds upon which the application rested were stated, the Court would take them into consideration, and the appeal would be allowed only when they were satisfied that there was a difficulty in regard to the conviction about which it was necessary to hear the prosecution. In the great majority of cases the Court would come to the conclusion at once that there was no foundation for an appeal, because undoubtedly convictions as a rule were just and were obtained after a patient hearing of the defence. Nor did he think there would be a great readiness to appeal in regard to sentences. If a convicted person challenged the justice of his sentence he must submit to have that sentence measured by principles of general application. The Court in such a case would ask themselves whether penal servitude or imprisonment was the proper penalty for the offence; and as the result might be that the prisoner would get a less desirable sentence he would probably come to the conclusion that the ills he had were more endurable than those which might flow from the exercise of his right to appeal. One good result that would follow from the hearing of such appeals was that the Court would set the standard of the sentences that should be inflicted in various cases, as to which at present there prevailed the greatest disparity. In the course of the debate the most contradictory views had been expressed with regard to the functions of the Court of Criminal Appeal. How the experiment would work would largely depend upon the views of the Court itself. But the notion of those who framed it was that the Bill should give to a Court of Criminal Appeal corresponding powers to those which were possessed by the Court of Appeal in civil cases. In one clause they indicated the rule that should guide the Court in setting aside the verdict of the jury. The verdict of the jury in a criminal case, as in a civil case, must in the great majority of instances be conclusive. If the jury were not misled, if they apprehended the point, if the case had been fairly put before them, their conclusion ought to be unassailable by any Court of Appeal. It was where there was some element of doubt, where there was a disturbing factor, where some point had been misunderstood, where there had been some mistake, where the summing up by the learned chairman of quarter sessions or the Judge had not presented to the jury the real considerations which ought to have influenced them in coming to their verdict, it was in these cases that the Court of Criminal Appeal would operate. It was also said that the relief to be given was so trifling that the Bill was not worth having. It was said that the Court would never disturb the sentences of juries, and that a costly machinery was being set up simply to prove the impeccability of the judicial officials of the Crown and the impregnability of the jury system. That the relief would not be great in volume or in the number of cases affected was true, but if by this measure relief was carried to a few persons suffering the intolerable torture of an unjust condemnation, there would be sufficient justification for the House to give it a Second Reading. There had been some sneers directed against the Bill. It was said the Bill was founded on sentimental ideas. Hon. Gentlemen must remember that nearly all the reforms on the barbarous system of our criminal law had been defended on grounds of humanity. But in 1832 Lord Eldon in the House of Lords resisted—on the ground that it was based on sentimental ideas—a Bill for abolishing capital punishment for the theft of a horse or of £5 in a dwelling-house. For his part he preferred the sentiment that animated the supporters of the Bill to the sentiment which animated its opponents. There was no doubt that deep in the consciences of many, if not of most men, there was a feeling that misfortune might some day or other involve them in an unjust imputation of crime. It was not an unworthy object for the House to carry to such men the assurance that no conviction which might be obtained against them could stand until the grounds upon which it rested had been investigated by the trained judicial minds of three members of the English Bench. His view was that the Bill marked a better and more satisfactory era in the history of English law. If the House passed the Bill, as he hoped they would, it would be with the consciousness of knowing that a blemish was removed from our jurisprudence, that a new safeguard had been added to innocence, and that liberty and property would be placed on an equal footing.

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that the hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University had an instruction on the Paper to the Committee that they should have power to divide the Bill into two parts, the one dealing with appeals upon questions of fact, the other with appeals upon questions of law. The Bill did not so naturally divide itself, and the division would involve the re-drafting of the whole Bill. The instruction was therefore out of order.

Mr. F. E. SMITH moved that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the Whole House."—(*Mr. F. E. Smith.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 43; Noes, 197. (Division List No. 194.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chaplin, Rt. Hn. Henry
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes.—Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. F. E. Smith.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph, A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beauchamp, E.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W H (St. Pancras, N.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne Major E Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel, T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gilhooly, James

Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazleton, Richard
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
MacDonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.
McCallum, John M.
McCrae, George
McLaren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
McLaren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN(D'ncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley,W.E.B.(BradfordE.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arther James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward W.
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel.(Carmarthen,E.)
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds,S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
WardJohn(Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward,W Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Whitbread, Howard
White, J.D.(Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,JohnHenry (Halifax)
Whittaker,Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W (Hull,W.)
Wilson, P.W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W.T. (Westhoughton)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Bill committed to a Standing Committee.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS (STAMP DUTY).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an *ad valorem* stamp duty on the statement of the amount contributed or to be contributed by a limited partner, or of any increase in such amount, of five shillings for every one hundred pounds and any fraction of one hundred pounds over any multiple of one hundred pounds of the amount so contributed or to be contributed or of the increase of that amount, as the case may be, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to establish Limited Partnerships; and to make provision for recovery of such stamp duty, with interest thereon, in pursuance of such Act.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Mr. Whiteley,*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at two minutes before Five o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 3rd June, 1907.

The Earl of Mansfield sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [H.L.]; Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers; Leeds Corporation; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements); King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council; London and North Western Railway; London United Tramways; Penrith Urban District Council.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for additional Provision in the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision.

And that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the Alton Military Hospital ought to be dispensed with and leave given to introduce the Bill; read, and agreed to.

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Burnley Corporation Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, without Amendment.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill; Boston Spa Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Shanklin Gas Bill. Reported, with an Amendment.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with an Amendment.

Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Aberdeen Corporation Bill [H.L.] now Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments; further Amendments made: Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Malmesbury be proposed to the House as a member of the Joint Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Manvers; read, and agreed to.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a} (according to order).

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Brought from the Commons, and read 1^{a}; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 60.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 520. Seychelles.
No. 521. Hong Kong.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Memorandum on the study of languages.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3808. France (Society Islands).

No. 3809. Greece (Morea, Aetolia, and Acarnania).

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Annual statement of navigation and shipping of the United Kingdom, for the year 1906.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD (IRELAND).

Annual Report for the year 1906.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Sixth Annual General Report of the Department, 1905–1906.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Return of advances under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st December, 1905. Vol. I., Part III.

ARMY (MILITARY PRISONS AND DETENTION BARRACKS).

Report on the discipline and management of the military prisons and detention barracks, 1906, by Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Henderson, inspector of military prisons and detention barracks.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1899 (RETREATS).

Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February, 1907, for retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland.—Appointing the places at which examinations for 1907 shall be held; determining the number of centre superintendents to conduct the examinations in the year 1907.

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST, BRITISH SOLOMAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE).

The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 6.) Warrant, 1907, dated 15th May, 1907.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Order by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 13th May, 1907, providing for the early closing of shops in the parish of Cathcart (county of Renfrew).

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury minute, dated 27th May, 1907, declaring that Edward Cable, 3rd class labourer, Royal Army Clothing Department, War Office, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

University Court Ordinance, No. 20 (Edinburgh, No. 8), regulations for the degree of bachelor of pharmacy. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 59.)

IRISH TOBACCO BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

FIRST AID TO INJURED SEAMEN.

LORD MUSKERRY rose to call attention to the desirability of requiring candidates for Board of Trade certificates of competency to show knowledge of ambulance work and of first aid to the injured; and to inquire whether the Board of Trade were taking any steps in the matter.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, during the totally inadequate discussion of the new Merchant Shipping Act while in the Committee Stage in this House a suggestion was made which, without doubt, had the general sympathy of the House. This suggestion took the form of an Amendment moved by my right rev. friend the Bishop of Bangor, that a British ship should carry at least one officer or seaman duly certificated as to proficiency in first aid and ambulance work. The right rev. Prelate to a certain extent anticipated me, as I had given notice of my intention to bring the subject forward, though in another, and, I venture to think, simpler form.

Though the right rev. Prelate's Amendment was unsuccessful—which was no surprise to me, having regard to the hostility of the Government towards most of the Amendments to the Bill—I was glad to find that its principle was so generally approved of. From the remarks of the noble Lords representing the Government a clear impression was given to the House that the question would not be neglected. The First Lord of the Admiralty remarked that the Government looked with favour on the proposal, and the right rev. Prelate's Amendment was consequently withdrawn. Yet the short and sympathetic debate proved barren so far as the Merchant Shipping Act is concerned, and I venture to submit, with all respect, that if your Lordships were to apply a little more direct force to your unquestionable sympathy with the seafaring fraternity it would be voicing public opinion and would command the everlasting gratitude of those whose occupation prevents them from applying this direct force themselves.

To revert to the desirability of a knowledge of ambulance and first aid at sea, I feel that it is hardly necessary to dilate upon its importance. The Bishop of Bangor pointed, in touching and eloquent terms, to the serious risks to life and limb inseparable from the calling of the sailor. He dwelt on the misery, pain, and distress of men grievously maimed at sea, with no immediate attention at hand in the shape of medical skill in its highest forms. And no additional words of mine could make the situation clearer. But for the dilatory tactics—to use a very mild term—of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade something would have been done long ago to alleviate the miseries of injured seamen. It is no less than seven years ago that a Medical Committee appointed by the Board of Trade recommended that—

> "Mates presenting themselves for examination for masters' certificates should be required to produce evidence that they have passed through a course of instruction in the subject of first aid to the wounded."

That was the recommendation of a Committee of their own appointed seven years ago, and nothing has yet been done. During the discussion on this subject on the Committee stage of the Merchant Shipping Bill some anxiety seemed to be felt as to the attitude of shipowners, my noble friend in charge of the Bill stating that at the present moment the Board of Trade put so many burdens on shipowners that they did not desire to add any more. I will, therefore, read to your Lordships opinions which have been expressed by shipowners on this matter. The following Resolution was passed at a Committee meeting of the North of England Steamship Owners' Association—

> "That the Executive Council of the Chamber of Shipping request the Board of Trade to pass an order that in all future examinations for certificates of competency for officers in the Mercantile Marine, it shall be imperative that every candidate shall possess an ambulance certificate."

The Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, which is the representative body of the shipowners of this country, in reporting their opinions to the Board of Trade stated that it would be very desirable for candidates for first mates' certificates to be compulsorily examined in ambulance work, with the proviso, which is a perfectly proper one, that any new regulations should not be retrospective in their action.

The Merchant Service Guild, which is the representative body of the captains and officers of our merchant service, have, I think, on two occasions informed the Board of Trade that they fully realise the value of knowledge of this kind, and they have urged the Board to require proof of ambulance training and knowledge of first aid from all candidates for second mates' certificates. It will be a source of surprise to your Lordships that with the knowledge of all this the Board of Trade did not accept the Amendment of my right rev. friend.

In justice to our sailors, I submit to your Lordships that we cannot allow this matter to drop, and if the Board of Trade still intend to present a hostile front we must take some stronger measures to deal effectively with it. Not a single reasonable argument can be adduced for declining to agree to the proposal that a knowledge of ambulance work and first aid should be required of those obtaining their first certificates of competency from the Board of Trade. I hope to learn that the Board are now taking the necessary steps whereby something practicable in the direction I urge will be carried into effect, and, furthermore, I trust that your Lordships will give your support in this matter, if only in the cause of humanity. It is a disgrace to the country, a disgrace to the nation, that more care, more consideration, and more solicitude are shown to the criminals in our prisons and penal establishments than to the British merchant sailor, to whom the country owes so much. I beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, the matter to which my noble friend has alluded has received and is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade. As the noble Lord will remember, on the Third Reading stage of the Merchant Shipping Bill last year I gave a promise, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, that regulations should be framed by the Board of Trade to deal with this question, so that in the course of the next few years every ship going to sea should have on board a man who had passed an examination in first aid. I will tell the noble Lord what has happened since that time. We are naturally anxious that the smallest amount of inconvenience or expense should be put on officers undergoing examination for these certificates. We have consequently asked the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association whether they can see their way to make special terms for these officers, and the answers received have been wholly satisfactory. It naturally takes some time to settle and bring into force regulations, but I hope that at the beginning of next year the Government will be able to give effect to their intentions in the matter. The only outstanding question, it seems to me, is that regarding expense, and we hope that the total expenses of officers for examination purposes will in no case exceed a guinea. We intend to impose the obligation of passing an examination in first aid on every officer going up for examination after the new rules come into force—say, a mate who wishes to take out a master's certificate, also on men who are going up for their examinations for second mate.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I should like to say a single word on this subject. It seems to me to be one of those matters which one is a little surprised not to have heard more about outside. It concerns so very large and so important a section of the community who are always supposed to be specially dear to the English people that one wonders that a grievance so real should not have been dealt with and remedied before now. I confess to some little disappointment at the answer which has been given by the noble Earl on behalf of His Majesty's Government, after the statement which was made when the matter came before the House last year. I then understood, from what the noble Earl said, that by the time the Bill came into operation these regulations would be in force. The suffering to which an ordinary seaman who has broken his leg or his arm, or has met with some other serious accident, may be subjected owing to the absence on board of any one with a knowledge of first aid, is such that the matter does call for the issue, in a peremptory form, of the regulation which has been asked for, and it will be exceedingly unfortunate if there should be any continued delay in this matter, which, if public attention were prominently drawn to it, would, I am sure, evoke very marked feeling among the people of this country. I understand that there is a regulation that there must be a certified cook on every ship. I do not want to draw a comparison between the advantages to men on board of the services of a certified cook and of the man who understands first aid, but I do not think there would be any doubt on the subject when an accident occurred. This is a matter which urgently calls for attention, and I hope it will be pressed forward.

THE LORD BISHOP OF BANGOR: My Lords, I cannot refrain from joining in the expression of disappointment at the delay which has taken place in carrying into effect the undertaking given last year by the noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade. I certainly understood from what the noble Earl then said that the instructions were to be issued at once, and that mates going up for their examination certificates of competency were to be examined in first aid as soon as the Merchant Shipping Act came into force. That Act came into force last week, but the regulations have not yet been framed. I notice that the Board of Trade have issued several circulars with regard to subjects to be added to their syllabus for examination, and I am surprised that there has been no hint in any of the circulars that a knowledge of first-aid to the injured will at any future time form a subject for examination. I inquired of the principals of a number of marine academies where officers are prepared for examination for certificates of proficiency as to whether they knew anything about the matter, and so far as I can gather from the replies they are in complete ignorance as to the likelihood of first aid forming any part of future examinations. I do not think it is a very difficult matter. Numbers of policemen, railway guards, and men employed in mines find no difficulty in passing the examination, and my nephew tells me that he passed it when he was a boy at Eton. I hope the Board of Trade will see their way to issue regulations at an earlier date than that mentioned by the noble Earl, and I trust that when they are framed they will be laid on the Table of the House.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, I do not know whether the noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade can carry this matter a little further after the appeal which has been made to him. He will remember that a statement was made on the Third Reading of the Merchant Shipping Bill that instructions would be issued on the subject almost immediately; but, though six months have elapsed, no instructions have been made public, and we are told that the matter is still under consideration. This is not a new matter; it has been under consideration some years, and I hope the Government will be able to give some further assurance that it will be dealt with without delay.

***THE EARL OF GRANARD**: Your Lordships must remember that the object of the Board of Trade has been as far as possible to save officers inconvenience and expense, and for this reason we have approached the ambulance societies I have mentioned to see if they will give officers preferential treatment. Officers are frequently out of port and abroad, and in a great many of the places at which they touch they do not have the time or the opportunity of going up for this examination. In view, however, of the appeals made to the Government, I will do everything in my power to secure that the regulations shall come into operation as soon as possible.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 3rd June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [Lords]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Bill [Lords]; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords]; Harrison's Patent Bill [Lords].

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz:—Coventry Corporation Water Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing

Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz :—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

Maidstone Gas Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Armagh Urban District Council Bill (King's Consent signified),—Bill read the third time, and passed.

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [Lords]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [Lords]; read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water Provisional Order. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water, presented by Mr. Sinclair.

Ordered, That Standing Order 193A be suspended, and the Bill be now read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water Provisional Order Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water," accordingly read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 218.]

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill. Ordered, That the Memorandum by the Commissioners of Works on Electric Power and Supply Bills [Command Paper No. 2930, of Session 1906] be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petition from Formby, against; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Congleton, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Copy presented, of Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Study of Languages [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XX. (Edinburgh, No. 8) (Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 171.]

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain Shops in the parish of Cathcart (county of Renfrew) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copies presented, of Colonial Reports Nos. 520 (Seychelles, Annual Report for 1906) and 521 (Hong Kong, Annual Report for 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 22nd March; *Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 172.]

MILITARY PRISONS.

Copy presented, of Report on the Discipline and Management of Military

Prisons in 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 27th May, 1907, declaring that Edward Cable, 3rd Class Labourer, Royal Army Clothing Department, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST).

Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant 1907, dated 15th May, 1907, [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st December, 1905. Vol. 1, Part III. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which Examinations for 1907 shall be held [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Rule made by the Intermediate Board for Ireland determining the number of Centre Superintendents to conduct the Examinations in the year 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Copy ordered, "of Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1906, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Teachers' Houses.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware of the difficulty in arranging for teachers' houses in connection with provided schools which is caused by the fact that at least 50 per cent. of the cost of such premises is chargeable on the parish, although the whole of the teachers' salary is charged on the county fund; whether he is aware that this produces difference of treatment as between parishes where the schools are respectively provided and non-provided, owing to the fact that deductions from salaries on account of rent are not paid to the parish in the former case, even when the teacher's house is the property of the parish, but in the case of non-provided schools are paid to the trustees of the school; whether this difference can be remedied without legislation; and, if not, whether he can see his way to introduce legislation giving power to county authorities to erect, hire, or purchase dwelling-houses for teachers and apportion the cost as between the parish and the county in such way as may be just.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) It is no doubt true that the cost of providing or renting a teacher's house for a council school must, to the extent of at least one-half, be charged on the parish or parishes served by the school. The cost of renting a teacher's house for a voluntary school is paid out of the county fund, and in both cases any reduction in the teacher's salary due to his occupation of a house rent free is credited to the county. This arrangement could only be altered by legislation, but I may point out that if the county council consider that the parish should not be charged with so high a proportion of the cost of the teacher's house, it would be open to them, in allocating, within the limits imposed by the statute, the cost of provision of council schools between the parishes and the county, to charge on the parishes a smaller proportion when a teacher's house is included than they would charge where a teacher's house is not included.

Veterinary Examination of Cows in Scotland.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state, for the years 1900 to 1906 inclusive, the number of cows examined by veterinary surgeons under Article 3 of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1899, the number of cows certified under the said Article to be affected with tuberculosis of the udder, and the manner in which the cows so certified were disposed of.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The figures compiled from the Returns made to the Local Government Board from 1900 to 1905 are as follows—

	Year.					
	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Number of cows examined - - -	20,076	22,604	26,382	29,870	29,305	38,309
Number of cows affected with tuberculosis of the udder - -	54	46	40	40	37	43

The figures, however, are only approximate, and do not represent the exact number of cows certified as affected by tuberculosis of the udder, which I am unable to obtain. I have no information as to how the cows certified were disposed of.

Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of trawlers flying a foreign flag observed fishing in the Moray Firth during the year ending the 31st December, 1906, and the nationality of the respective vessels.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In 1906 thirty different foreign trawlers (twenty-nine Norwegian and one Belgian) were observed on 185 occasions.

Ventilating Arrangements of Battleships.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether complaints have been received of the ventilation in some of the British warships, more particularly with regard to the magazines and lower decks; whether the repairs and refits provided for in the Estimates for 1906–7 and 1907–8 include alterations in ventilating arrangements; and, if so, what are the names of the ships affected.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There has been no general complaint of the ventilation of the magazines and lower decks of British warships, but from time to time reports have been made by officers who think the temperatures of particular parts of certain ships too high. This has not always been found to be due to defective ventilation, but sometimes to the fact that the existing means of ventilation have not been fully utilised. The Estimates for 1906–7 and 1907–8 provided for carrying out certain modifications to the ventilating arrangements of the following ships, where experience had shown alterations to be necessary. 1906–7: "Exmouth," "Glory," "Albion," "Swiftsure," "Triumph," and "Drake." 1907–8: "Canopus," "Goliath," "Glory," "Hawke," "Swiftsure," "Triumph," "Lancaster," "Suffolk," "Duncan," and "Exmouth."

Payment of Teachers in Monmouthshire Provided and Non-provided Schools.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Monmouthshire Education Authority has established uniform rates of salaries for teachers in provided schools within the county, but declines to pay teachers in non-provided schools at the same rates; and whether he has ever advised any such discrimination between the two classes of schools.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) It is not one of the duties of the Board of Education to advise local education authorities as to the amount of salary they should pay to their teachers.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the President of the Board of Education if he can say how many teachers employed at non-provided schools in Swansea have recently tendered their resignation; whether he is aware that they have taken this step at the request of the executive of the National Union of Teachers, and because for similar work they are paid lower salaries than their colleagues in the provided schools under the same authority; and whether, in the event of the resignations taking effect, and the schools being closed, the Education Board has any powers which it can exercise to compel the local authority to abandon the discrimination it now makes in the salaries of provided and non-provided school teachers.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I cannot say how many teachers in voluntary schools in Swansea have resigned or what reasons have led them to take this step. The last paragraph of my hon. friend's Question, raises hypothetical questions which will require consideration in the event of the contingency to which he refers arising.

Persons possessing Real Estate dying Intestate.

Mr. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the number of persons in England and Wales who died intestate possessed of real estate; and what was the value of the real estate which passed upon such intestacy in each of the last ten years.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The records of the Estate Duty Office do not distinguish between testate and intestate estates, while on the other hand the records of the principal probate registry do not contain statistics of the value of real estate. I fear, therefore, that the information for which my hon. friend asks could only be obtained by a detailed examination and collation of the records of the two departments, which would involve the expenditure of a very large amount of time and labour.

Docks capable of holding "Lord Nelson" Class of Battleships.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, with reference to the thirteen Government docks and six Colonial and private docks in the British Empire that will take ships of the "Dreadnought" class, whether the Admiralty will give the corresponding figures for the docks that will take the "Lord Nelson" class, which are the immediate predecessors of the "Dreadnought."

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) In addition to the thirteen Government docks and six Colonial and private docks in the British Empire which will take ships of the "Dreadnought" class, there are five other Government docks, two private docks in the United Kingdom, and two Colonial docks, which will take the "Lord Nelson" class. There are two other docks in the United Kingdom which might take either a "Dreadnought" or a "Lord Nelson," but the Admiralty have not sufficient information at the present time to say definitely; inquiries are being made.

Seniority of Transferred Postal Officials.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Nottingham, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that a telegraphist has been transferred from Hanley to Nottingham for departmental purposes, and that he carries his seniority with him, which acts to the disadvantage of the Nottingham staff; whether other transferred officers at Nottingham have been placed at the bottom of the class; and whether he will consider the advisability of giving monetary compensation to transferred officers, and thus avoid injustice to the staff generally.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is usual in cases of this kind to allow an officer transferred for departmental reasons to carry his seniority; and this course was followed in the case of the officer referred to. Officers transferred at their own request are required to go to the foot of their new class; and this condition is definitely brought under their notice before the application for transfer is acceded to.

Appointments to Board of Trade Messengerships.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many appointments have been made to permanent messengerships at the Board of Trade since January, 1906; and what was the occupation of the individual men prior to appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Nine permanent messengers have been appointed at the Board of Trade and its subordinate departments since January, 1906, viz., two ex-soldiers, one unestablished messenger, two ex-boy messengers, one postman, one waiter, one shop assistant, and one messenger clerk.

Woolwich Arsenal Committee of Inquiry.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the Committee appointed to inquire into the relations between Woolwich Arsenal and private manufacturing firms have yet reported; and whether it is proposed to publish the Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I presume that the hon. Member refers to the Report of the Committee on this subject appointed by the Treasury. It is not proposed at present to publish this Report, but I believe that the question of whether it may not become expedient to do so is to be considered later on.

Territorial Army—County Associations and the Pay of Officers.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the county associations to be set up under the Territorial Forces Bill will be entitled or permitted to control or vary in any way the emoluments of officers and men of the Territorial Forces.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply is in the negative.

British Warships in Colonial Waters.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what progress is being made with the arrangements for the provisions of vessels to show the flag in Colonial waters.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I have nothing to add to my reply to a previous Question from the hon. Gentleman on 26th February last,† except that since that date the "Scylla" has been sent out to the West Indies, and the "Monmouth" has been ordered to Vancouver to embark Prince Fushimi for Japan.

The Case of Mr. Edalji.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government, in releasing Mr. Edalji from confinement, decided that Mr. Edalji was wrongfully imprisoned, should not have been imprisoned at all, and was not guilty of the crime for which he was convicted.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government have decided that a free pardon is properly applied to a person who has been wrongfully or mistakenly convicted and imprisoned when he is released from an unjust confinement.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any precedent for granting compensation to a person who has been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned, and who has been granted a so-called free pardon; and whether the Government will, in future, grant compensation to any person who has been wrongfully imprisoned, and will discontinue the use of the words free pardon in releasing an innocent person from prison.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I will answer this and the next two Questions together. Mr. Edalji was released in October last at the end of three years because it was considered that the sentence originally passed upon him was unduly severe. This was my predecessor's decision in August, 1905, which I carried out in October, 1906.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1417-8.

In the absence of a right of appeal to a higher court the grant of a free pardon, whether the term is considered appropriate or not, is the only means by which a person can be relieved of the consequences of a conviction, whether wrongful or otherwise. Compensation has, in certain exceptional cases, been granted to innocent persons who have suffered imprisonment, but the question of payment of compensation must depend upon the circumstances of each individual case. The reasons which have led me to advise the grant of a free pardon without compensation to Mr. Edalji are shown in the Papers which have been laid before Parliament, and I have nothing to add to what is contained in them.

Distraints for Non-payment of Education Rates.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passive resisters were summoned for the non-payment of a sectarian rate; how many of them suffered distraint; and how many of them suffered imprisonment for conscience sake during 1904, 1905, 1906, and the first four months of 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I fear it is impossible to give the information my hon. friend asks for. As I said in answer to a Question on 8th May, there is no legal distinction between a passive resister and an ordinary rate defaulter.

Publication of Correspondence with Railway Companies respecting Combines.

SIR J. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the correspondence with railway companies respecting combines will be laid upon the Table.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George*). The correspondence in question was laid upon the Table on the 25th March, and has been circulated as Command Paper 3420.

Importation of Nitro-Cotton.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if a prohibition has been issued, and on what date, against the importation of nitro-cotton containing mercury; and whether a firm would be bound to terminate its contract on the ground of fraud if chloride of mercury had been added so as to affect the recognised heat test by which the purity of the materials is ascertained.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. There is no prohibition of the importation into this country of collodion cotton (*i.e.*, nitro-cotton), whether containing mercury or not, when wet, because in that condition it is not regarded as an explosive. When dry, on the other hand, it cannot be imported, and even if imported could not be stored, without a licence; and no such licence would allow the presence of mercury. It is illegal to use collodion cotton containing mercury in the manufacture of explosives in this country, and a warning to this effect has recently been given through official channels to the manufacturers of a foreign state. It is not within my province to give an opinion on the legal point raised in the second part of the Question.

Workmen's Fares on the Metropolitan Railway.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the President of the Board of Trade when his Department proposes to institute an inquiry into the question of workmen's fares upon the Metropolitan and District Railways, in agreement with the requests received from public and other bodies.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Complaints were received from the London County Council and other bodies with regard to the workmen's fares on the Metropolitan District Railway, and the matter has, on the application of the railway company, been referred to the Railway and Canal Commission as provided by the Cheap Trains Act, 1883. The matter having been so referred, the duty of inquiry falls upon the Railway and Canal Commission.

Re-afforestation Scheme.

SIR J. RANDLES: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, when a statement may be expected as to the scheme of re-afforestation under consideration of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have under consideration the purchase of an estate for the purposes of afforestation; but I am unable to make any statement on the subject at present.

Van Dwellers and Inhabited House or Carriage Licence Duty.

MR. WHITEHEAD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether vans used as dwellings are subject to any duty corresponding to Inhabited House Duty or the licence duty on carriages or, like motor cars, are required to be registered and to bear a reference number; and, if not, whether His Majesty's Government, with a view to more effective control over dwellers in vans by the sanitary, police, and education authorities, will introduce legislation to provide for such registration, bearing of a reference number and payment of a licence duty.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that vans used as dwellings by the gipsy class are not chargeable with licence duty. They are trade carts, and hawkers' licences are taken. Caravans used as dwellings for pleasure, or other than trade purposes, are carriages within the meaning of the Act and chargeable with licence duty.

Customs Watchers.

MR. WHITEHEAD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the number of customs watchers in the upper section has now been restored to one-fourth of the total number employed.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The number of watchers on the upper section is now one-fourth of the total number employed at Gravesend, Tilbury, Queenborough, and the out ports.

Sales of Agricultural Lands.

MR. LAMBTON: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the Board of Agriculture has any records of agricultural land sales; and, if so, whether he will state the acreage sold publicly and privately during the last five years.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We have no official information on this subject. The hon. Member might, however, find it useful to refer to the Land and House Property Year Book, which is published annually by the Estates Gazette, and contains particulars of the sales of land by auction in the metropolis and at many of the chief provincial sales.

Importation of Argentine Cattle.

MR. BOWERMAN: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he is aware that the prohibition to export live animals from certain Argentine ports has been removed, and that Argentine cattle and sheep will be again landed at Antwerp for slaughter, that the hides and skins in a raw state, as well as the meat, will be shipped to English markets, and that the vessels employed in this trade will frequently proceed direct to British ports to discharge the remainder of their cargo or to reload; and if he can state what steps will be taken to prevent the introduction into this country of cattle diseases through the importation of the hides and skins and through the landing of persons and cargo from off the vessels on to British soil.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We have been informed of the removal of the prohibition against the exportation of live animals from Argentina. The propriety of taking further measures to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease by indirect agencies into this country from Antwerp has frequently been considered; but we are satisfied that the regulations of the Belgian Government with regard to the disinfection of the vessels and the sanitary precautions taken by them with regard to diseased or suspected cargoes afford a sufficient safeguard.

Imprisonment of Mr. Timothy Flanagan, of Corofin.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for

Ireland if he will state the circumstances under which Mr. Timothy Flanagan, of Corofin, county Clare, has been lodged in Limerick Prison; and whether he will inquire as to whether Mr. Flanagan's release can be ordered.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) Mr. Timothy Flanagan was prosecuted at Corofin petty sessions for having acted as a member of the district council there, whilst disqualified, and fined £12 and costs. The fine and costs were not paid, and on failure of distress he was committed to Limerick prison for four months in default. The prosecution was at the instance of a private individual, and was not directed by me or in any way under my control. A conditional order for a writ of certiorari to quash the conviction has been granted by the King's Bench Division of the High Court, and the matter will come before the Court for final adjudication in a short time. The Lord-Lieutenant has been advised that, pending the result of these proceedings, there is no power to discharge Mr. Flanagan.

Uninhabited Houses in England and Wales.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the aggregate number of empty houses in the cities and towns of this country is on the increase; and, if so, can he state the figures and to what cause or causes he attributes the increase.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am not able to give the information desired by the hon. Member. I may, however, draw his attention to the table on page 193 of the General Report on the Census of 1901, which gives some particulars as to the number of uninhabited houses in England and Wales at each census since 1801, and the proportion it bears to the number of houses which were inhabited. The observations, however, on page 36 of the Report should be read in connection with this table.

Grants to Central Unemployed Body.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has received an application from the Central Unemployed Body for a further grant to enable that body to continue employing those women who are at present unable to find employment; and, if so, what was the nature of his reply.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The last payment to the Central (Unemployed) Body for this purpose was made on the 28th March. I have not since received any application from them on the subject.

Refund of Income Tax to Farmer-Owners under Schedule B.

COLONEL R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer why owners farming their own land who have to pay income-tax under Schedules A and B can yet, when no profit is made, only get a refund under Schedule B.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) An owner farming his own land and making no profit whatever, not even anything towards rent of the land farmed, can obtain relief from the tax assessed under Schedule A, in virtue of Section 23 of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1890.

Income-Tax Assessments.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the approximate amount which he estimates the Exchequer will derive from the new provision with reference to income-tax requiring all employers, whether private persons or companies, to make extended returns giving, not only the names, but the salaries of their employees.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) No, Sir. I have no data on which to base an estimate of the amount of taxable income which escapes assessment through the imperfections of the present regulations.

Increased Revenue from New Scale of Death Duties.

MR. H. H. MARKS: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what would have been the approximate gain to the Exchequer, up to 30th March, 1907, if the increased scale of death duties which he has now imposed had been imposed in April, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Last year was, of course, a particularly favourable year for the death duties, especially as regards large estates, and I calculate that the additional revenue from the increased rates, if they had been in force in respect of all estates upon which duty was paid in that year, would have been approximately £1,500,000. The proceeds in an average full year would be considerably less than that sum.

Indian Salt Tax.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to a recent case in Bombay where a mill operative was fined ten rupees, practically the equivalent of a month's wages, for scraping up a small quantity of natural salt from the sea-shore, amounting to about half an ounce in weight; whether such penalties are necessary to protect the Government revenue; and, if so, whether he will press upon the Government of India the importance of rigidly limiting expenditure so that the salt tax may be finally repealed at the earliest possible date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have seen mention of the case in the Bombay newspapers. I will ask the Government of Bombay to report particulars, and to say whether, in the circumstances, the fine imposed was excessive. The accused might have purchased for one-hundredth part of a penny the quantity of salt which he is alleged to have made illicitly. The salt duty has already, as my hon. friend knows, been reduced by three successive steps, at a cost to the revenues of over £3,000,000.

Sir James McKay and the Imperial Conference.

Mr. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether Sir James McKay attended the Imperial Conference, as representing the Government of India, at the request of that Government; and, if not, in what capacity did he attend and speak.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I should be glad if the hon. Member would kindly refer to the full Answer that I gave to a similar Question on the 8th May.†

The Punjab Colonisation Bill.

Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Punjab Colonisation Bill imposed more onerous conditions as to tenure and rent on the existing colonists than they had previously been accustomed to; whether it was on those grounds that the Viceroy refused his assent to the Bill; and, if not, what were the grounds on which the Viceroy refused his assent.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Bill did not deal in any way with the rents of existing or future colonists. Its primary object was to repair omissions in the past procedure for making grants of land, and to prescribe a simpler procedure for future grants. It also laid down the conditions subject to which grants in future would be made, and in certain respects it applied these to existing grants. The Viceroy refused his assent to the Bill on grounds of public policy, as it had been strongly opposed for its retrospective character in the Punjab Legislative Council, and its provisions were evidently misunderstood and had created genuine alarm in the colonies.

Punjab Revenues.

Mr. SMEATON: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Punjab is a deficit province, that is to say a province whose revenues are insufficient to meet its total civil and military expenditure; and what is the total amount of the deficit which has to be met from Imperial funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The revenue received in the Punjab has in recent years exceeded by at least one-half the civil expenditure in the province. The portion of the cost of the Army in India which is spent in the Punjab properly forms part of, and is merged in, the general military expenditure of the Government of India.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 210.

Trial of the Three Barristers Arrested at Rawal Pindi.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the cause of the delay in bringing the three barristers arrested at Rawal Pindi on 2nd May to trial on 30th May; and whether, during these four weeks, they were kept in prison, although bail to the amount of £20,000 was offered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am not aware why the persons referred to were not brought to trial until 30th May. Application for bail was made to the chief court of the Punjab, but was refused. As my hon. friend knows, release of a prisoner on bail pending trial is a matter entirely within the discretion of the court.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received from the Government in India any explanation of the cause of delay in arresting three barristers, on the 2nd of May at Rawal Pindi, for speaking, on the 21st April, at a public meeting in support of resolutions, to be forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for redress in connection with land revenue and irrigation rates; whether there was any disturbance in Rawal Pindi between the 21st April and the 2nd May; and whether the only disorder occurred immediately after the arrests.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The three pleaders were not arrested for speaking at the meeting held on 21st April, but for complicity in the riots that occurred on 2nd May. I am not aware that there were any disturbances between 21st April and 2nd May, and the riots on the latter date preceded, and did not follow, the arrests, and there has been no disorder since.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mr. Florence Doherty, of Beaufort, County Kerry.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Estates Commissioners have investigated the application for reinstatement by Mr. Florence Doherty, an evicted tenant on the John Mahony estate, Beaufort, county Kerry; and can he state what decision has been arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have investigated Mr. Doherty's application for reinstatement. The holding from which he was evicted has been purchased under the Land Acts by the tenant in occupation. The Commissioners, however, will further consider Mr. Doherty's case in the event of their purchasing untenanted land in the neighbourhood.

Rathkeale Rural District Council—Allegations of Corruption.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Irish Local Government Board have received a memorial, signed by forty-one leading ratepayers in the Rathkeale rural district, county Limerick, protesting against the jobbery and corruption of the rural council, and praying for their dissolution and the appointment of paid officers to administer their duties for them; if he is aware that at its meeting in April one of the Nationalist members of the council stated it was corrupt, and another that it was a bad precedent for Home Rule or Devolution; if the ratepayers in this district have already suffered a proved loss of £1,200; and what action the Local Government Board propose to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I refer to my Answer to the Question on this subject put by the hon. Member for North Londonderry on Thursday last.† The Local Government Board have no power to dissolve a rural district council.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Charles Talbot.

MR. BOLAND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the correspondence which has taken place, the Estates Commissioners will reconsider their decision in the case of Charles Talbot, an evicted tenant, and arrange for his reinstatement in his original holding, or, in the alternative, will see that he is given some compensation.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 93.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have given the most careful consideration to this case, and have decided that it is not one which calls for their interference or in which any compensation could be paid.

United Irish League Meeting in South Galway.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take into consideration the report of the ordinary meeting of the South Galway executive of the United Irish League held on 12th May; and whether he will take proceedings against those responsible for the speeches made against certain persons named at that meeting.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The meeting in question was held within doors, and the police have no evidence as to the speeches which may have been made at it.

Alleged Intimidation by the South Roscommon Branch of the United Irish League.

SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the order of the South Roscommon executive of the United Irish League requesting another branch to take notice of the conduct of a certain grazier; and whether he will say what action he proposes to take for ensuring to the said grazier the peaceful possession of his land.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that a local newspaper contained a report to the effect mentioned in the Question. The meeting at which this order is alleged to have been given was held within doors, and the police have no evidence that any such proceedings took place. The police are taking all possible measures for the protection of the grazier referred to.

Intimidation at Killasonagh, County Longford.

LORD J. JOICEY-CECIL (Lincolnshire, Stamford): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man has been violently deterred from placing an animal upon a grazing farm at Killasonagh, county Longford; and whether he will give assurances that this man shall be protected in the exercise of his legal rights.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The police authorities inform me that, so far as they have been able to ascertain, there is no foundation for the statement that a man has been deterred from placing an animal upon a grazing farm at Killasonagh.

Unlawful Assembly at Ballintubber.

LORD J. JOICEY-CECIL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many of the persons who attacked Mr. Payne's farm, near Ballintubber, on the 10th May were employees of the Congested Districts Board and of the Estates Commissioners; and whether he proposes to take action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that about seventy-five labourers who were temporarily in the employment of the Congested Districts Board, and about thirty employed by the Estates Commissioners, were members of the crowd some of whom drove the cattle off Mr. Payne's farm. This fact has already been brought to the notice of the Departments mentioned. Twelve persons are being prosecuted for unlawful assembly on the occasion, and the case is *sub judice*.

Roscommon District Council and Irish-made Goods.

COLONEL HARRISON-BROADLEY (Yorkshire, E.R., Howdenshire): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution of the Roscommon district council to the effect that in all advertisements for supplies Irish-made goods are to be ordered, where such can be obtained, and whether he proposes to take any steps to secure that the ratepayers of the district shall have the benefit of the cheapest market irrespective of the place of origin of the articles desired.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have no record that any such resolution was passed by the rural district council. The rural district council are not obliged by law to accept the lowest or any tender for goods to be supplied by them, but they must be prepared to satisfy the auditor that in accepting a tender which was not the lowest they acted in the best interest of the ratepayers.

Intimidation in County Sligo.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the action of the Geevagh, Moylough, Templeboy, Grange, and Highwood branches of the United Irish League, in the county of Sligo, which passed resolutions on Sunday, 19th May, for the purpose of intimidating certain persons named in the resolutions into a course of action agreeable to the League; and whether he will take the necessary action to protect the persons so referred to.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The police authorities inform me that resolutions purporting to have been passed by the branches named have appeared in a local newspaper. The meetings at which these resolutions are stated to have been passed were held in private, and the police have no evidence of the proceedings which may have taken place at these meetings. Full protection will be afforded to any persons who may need it.

Disturbance at Abbeyfeale.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a police report concerning an attack made upon a shop attendant named Kane at Abbeyfeale, county Limerick, on Monday, 13th May, by Laurence and John Nolan; whether he will inform the House why one of these men dangerously wounded Kane in the jaw with a knife; and whether the assault is connected with the fact that William Forde, Kane's employer, holds an evicted farm at Knockanadive, near Brosna, seeing that the defendents spent the afternoon outside Forde's shop at Abbeyfeale taking notes of the persons dealing with him and of the names on the carts calling for goods at his establishment.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Laurence Nolan has been returned for trial at quarter sessions for the offence of assaulting Kane, but no charge in connection with the matter has been preferred against John Nolan. It would be quite irregular to enter into the details of the case while criminal proceedings are pending.

Working of the Labourers Act.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received any complaints as to the tardy working of the Labourers Act; and whether anything can be done to hasten the erection of cottages for the labourers.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have received some complaints from labourers to the effect stated in this Question, but, so far, the Board cannot charge the councils with undue delay, especially having regard to the enormous numbers of applications which they have before them, over 50,000 already. It should be remembered that each application for a cottage must be considered on its merits, and all the sites have to be chosen and inspected before the preparation of the schemes can be put in hand. It is obvious that schemes of such magnitude require time and care, and there will be far more delay and disappointment in the long run if the statutory preliminaries are not closely observed, and if the schemes are prepared in a hurried or perfunctory manner. The hon. Member, however, may rest assured that every possible assistance will be given by the Local Government Board to the councils, and that no effort will be spared to expedite the working of the Act.

Reduction of Wages of Labourers at Gun Wharf, Portsmouth.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that in connection with the recent rise of 1s. per week to the wages of the labourers in the Army Ordnance Department there has at the same time been a reduction from 6d. to 4d. per day upon the wages of labourers at the gun wharf at Portsmouth who have been doing special work, and that therefore the increase in those cases of 1s. per week has been practically nullified; and whether he will restore the wages for special work to the same amount as they were before.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The wages paid to the men doing the work in question remain unchanged, and are considered adequate, notwithstanding that an increase has been made in the minimum rate paid to other men for different work.

Feeding Arrangements of the Army.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the effort being made to improve the preparation of food in the mercantile marine, he will consider the possibility of effecting some improvement in the preparation of food for the men of His Majesty's land forces quartered in barracks or cantonments; and, with the object of securing greater variety of food than now exists, will he consider the possibility of effecting improvements by letting the catering to outside contractors bound to employ soldiers in the preparation of the foods supplied.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The improvements made in late years in preparation of the soldiers' food have been very great, and have had the best results. Both general officer commanding and officers commanding units take keen interest in the matter. To let the catering to outside contractors would result in relieving officers and men of the responsibility and interest they now take in arranging for a palatable dietary. Further, contractors could not accompany an army in the field for this purpose, and the food of the soldier would consequently suffer at a time when it is imperative that it should be of the best.

Appointments to Colonial Office Messengerships.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies how many appointments have been made to permanent messengerships at the Colonial Office since January, 1906, and what was the occupation of the individual men prior to appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) One such appointment has been made. The person appointed was a temporary pensioner messenger in the employ of the Colonial Office, who was formerly a quartermaster-sergeant in the Army Service Corps.

Assessment of Scottish Railways.

MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he can state the system upon which the railway assessor values the Scottish railways for rating purposes; and whether he will give the total valuations for the last available year of the Caledonian, North British, Glasgow and South Western, Highland, and Great North of Scotland railway companies, stating in each case what portion of such valuation is placed upon the running lines.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In reply to the first part of the hon. Member's Question I may refer him to the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation (pages 20–22 of Cd. 1067 of 1902) for the system of valuation. With reference to the second paragraph of the Question, the following valuations for 1906–7, based upon a three years' average and allocated between running lines and stations, etc., have been furnished to me:—

	Running lines.	Stations, depots, &c.	Total.
	£	£	£
Caledonian - - - - - -	333,376	282,430	615,806
North British - - - - - -	455,714	205,521	661,235
Glasgow and South Western - -	169,212	103,920	273,132
Highland - - - - - -	24,055	23,990	48,045
Great North of Scotland - - -	57,943	28,366	86,309

Gratuity to John Malone, Late of Office of Works, Dublin.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that a man named John Malone, who had been sixty years in the employment of the Board of Works, Dublin, was recently retired on a gratuity of £39, whereas according to the Board's regulations he was entitled to a sum of £60, and that another employee of the Board was granted only a similar gratuity, although entitled to £50; will he explain why the Board's regulations were violated in those two cases; and whether, if they have been violated, due reparation will be made to the two men in question.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Board of Works have no regulations of the kind referred to, but it has been the invariable practice of the Treasury in its administration of Section 4 of the Superannuation Act of 1887 to limit the award of a gratuity to a maximum of one year's pay, and this rule could not be departed from in the present instances.

Purchase of Guaranteed Land Stock through Post Office.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that on the Dublin Stock Exchange Guaranteed Land Stock is readily and daily bought and sold; if not so aware, will he consult any leading Dublin stockbroker; and will he, as soon as possible, make the necessary regulations, under Section 2 of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, to enable purchasers to pay in Guaranteed Land Stock through the Post Office as intended by Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I can say no more at present than that the Treasury is in communication with the other departments concerned.

Pay of Mr. T. M'Nab, Postman, of Tarbert.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. T. M'Nab, a postman at Tarbert, N.B., makes five attendances and works an average of nearly six hours daily; that Mr. M'Nab only receives 16s. weekly, with no prospect of advancement; and that he has been refused the usual uniform due to men who work more than five hours daily; and whether he will take steps to place Mr. M'Nab on the established staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am making inquiry on this subject, and will acquaint the hon. Member with the result.

Employment of Ex-Telegraph Messengers on Postmen's Work.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that at Towcester and at other places ex-telegraph messengers are employed on postmen's work for more than four hours daily, and, although thus complying with the conditions necessary for appointment as assistant postmen, are refused permission to sit for examination; and whether he will take steps to remedy this.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Inquiry on this subject is in progress. The result shall be communicated to the hon Member.

Sick Leave of Mr. Abbott, of Redlynch, Salisbury.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. R. P. Abbott, of Redlynch, Salisbury, was certified after illness as being fit for duty on 15th December of last year, but was informed that he must not resume duty until instructions had been received from headquarters; that he was again examined on 27th February of this year, and again certified fit for duty, but still was not allowed to resume until 15th March; that, owing to what would appear to be a mistake on the part of the officials, Mr. Abbott exceeded the six months' sick leave allowed by the regulations and was therefore deprived of a portion of his pay; and whether this money will be refunded to him, as he was not sick nor responsible for his absence.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will inquire into the case of Mr. Abbott, of Redlynch, Salisbury, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Liverpool and Auckland—Distances by Alternative Routes.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the distances between Liverpool and Auckland by the following routes: *via* Halifax N.S., and Vancouver, *via* Montreal and Vancouver, *via* New York and San Francisco, *via* the Tehuantepec Railway, detailing in each case the distance across the Atlantic by steamship, the distance across the American Continent by railway, and the distance across the Pacific by steamship.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have no special information on the subject, but they understand that the shortest distances by sea, between the several ports, are approximately as follows:—

	Miles.
From Liverpool:	
To Montreal (*via* Belle Isle)	2,765
To Montreal (*via* Cape Race)	2,974
To Halifax	2,438
,, New York	2,978
,, Coatzacoalcos	4,777
And from:	
Vancouver City to Auckland	6,177
San Francisco	5,675
Salina Cruz	5,980

They are also informed that the distances by rail are approximately:

	Statute Miles.
From Halifax to Vancouver City	3,662
From Montreal to Vancouver City	2,906
From New York to San Francisco	3,270
From Coatzacoalcos to Salina Cruz	200

Removal of Shingle from Sidmouth Beach.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether an officer from Trinity House called at Sidmouth early in July last and gave orders to anyone that the removal of shingle from Sidmouth beach must stop; if so, to whom were these orders given, and why, if so given, was shingle allowed to be taken as before, to the prejudice of the owners and skippers of registered fishing boats and their fishermen working with them; if not now officially stopped, will the Board of Trade say it will be stopped entirely; and whether the Board is aware that, if the removal of shingle is not stopped, the fishermen of this district will be ruined, as their boats will be destroyed by the sea beach being too low for them to lie on with reasonable safety.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The removal of beach material is not a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the Trinity House, and I have ascertained from that corporation that they have no knowledge of any orders having been given in their name regarding such removal at Sidmouth. The most effective means at the disposal of the Board of Trade for stopping the removal of shingle or ballast is the issue of an order under Section 14 of The Harbours Act, 1814, prohibiting such removal. No application for the issue of such an order in respect of Sidmouth has been received from those interested. Should an application be made the Board will be prepared to cause local inquiry to be made as to whether the circumstances warrant the issue of an order.

Appointments to Board of Education Messengerships.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education how many appointments have been made to permanent messengerships at the Board of Education since January, 1906, and what was the occupation of the individual men prior to appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Since January, 1906, seven appointments to permanent messengerships have been made. Of these, four had been boy messengers in the service of the Board of Education, one had been in the Army and is a reservist, one had been a college servant at Oxford, and one a man servant. During the same period three permanent "attendants" have been appointed. Of the former, one was a boy messenger in the service of the Board, one had been in the Army, and afterwards a valet, and the third had been in the Army. A doorkeeper has also been appointed who was in the Metropolitan Police and employed for a considerable number of years in the House of Commons.

Promotion of Excise Officers to Chief Officers of Customs.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether promotion of Excise officers to the posts of chief officers of Customs is regulated by seniority in the service or by other considerations; and if in any recent promotions men of long service and good character have been passed over for men much junior in the service, without any cause being assigned to those disappointed of promotion.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I presume that the hon. Member refers to examining officers of Customs and not to "Excise officers." The appointment of examining officers to the post of chief officer is not governed by seniority, but by consideration of the qualification and general fitness of the officer for the duties and position. Regard is had also to age, for the reasons stated by my hon. friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in his Answer to the Question of the hon. Member for the Newton Division on 27th February last,† and this necessarily excludes many officers of long service and good character. It is unusual, and I do not think it would be desirable, to inform senior officers who have not been selected of the reasons why they were not cosidered suitable for the position.

Destruction of the Rameshvaram Temple.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Dharmakarta of the Rameshvaram temple proposes to destroy that edifice and to build up another in its place; and, if so, whether the Madras Government will take any action, direct or indirect, in order to prevent such destruction.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I understand that the manager of the temple has been entrusted by his co-religionists with subscriptions to a very large amount for the repair and restoration of the temple, and that the project which has been approved of provides for the renovation of the wall of the outermost court and the complete rebuilding of the two inner courts. The Madras Government has tendered advice to the manager, but it is not in a position to interfere in the matter against the wishes of the temple authorities.

Revision of Land Settlement in Rawal Pindi District.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, seeing that the land revenue of the Rawal Pindi district of the Punjab, which was increased from £27,500 in 1865 to £36,400 in 1885, has been further increased by a new settlement made in 1904 to £45,000, the tax on many of the holdings near the town being doubled, he will appoint a small committee of revenue officials from other provinces to inquire into the allegations of excessive enhancement, as was done in Bombay in 1877 after serious rioting by the tenant farmers.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 47.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Deccan Riots Commission, to which my hon. friend apparently refers, was appointed by the Bombay Government in 1876 on evidence of the existence of the serious indebtedness of the agricultural classes in certain districts to the money-lenders, and with a view to remedial legislation. This does not constitute a precedent for the action proposed; but, if the Government of India or the local Government consider that an inquiry is called for, they will no doubt propose a Commission. I understand that they are satisfied that the revision of the land settlement is justified by extensions of cultivation and rise in rents and prices since the last settlement, and that there has been no agitation among the agricultural classes of the district.

Irish Labourers Cottages—Application of Peter Flanagan.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an application by Peter Flanagan, of Lucan, county Dublin, for a cottage under the Labourers Act was rejected by the Celbridge Rural District Council or by the Local Government Board; and, if so, will he explain why.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have not yet received information as to this case. If, however, it be the fact that Flanagan's representation was rejected by the rural district council, he can attend at the local inquiry which is to be held and lay his case before the inspector.

The Mullaranny-Belmullet Railway.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is yet in a position to state that the proposed railway from Mullaranny, county Mayo, to Belmullet will be commenced in the near future; has a consultation taken place between the engineer to the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland and the engineer to the Board of Works as to the probable cost of such a railway; and, if so, what was the estimate they arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am not in a position to make the statement suggested in the first part of the Question. The consultation between the two engineers referred to has not yet taken place, but has been arranged for an early date.

People under Police Protection at Kilnaboy, County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many people are under police protection in the parish of Kilnaboy, county Clare; and whether such precautions are necessary in view of the perfectly peaceful condition of the locality.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Twelve persons are under police protection in the parish of Kilnaboy. The protection is considered necessary by the police authorities, who are responsible for taking measures to preserve the peace, and who inform me that the locality is not at present in a peaceable condition.

Cost of Extra Police in County Galway.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state, with regard to the claim now being made upon the county council of Galway for the cost of extra police, the several dates on which extra police were employed in the county, and the number of police at each station on these dates, also the ordinary quota for each such station and for the county; and whether any police, and, if so, how many, were drafted into Galway from other counties for service on the dates in question.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The claim referred to in the Question is in respect of the cost of extra police sent to the county of Galway during the half-year ending 30th September, 1906. During that period extra men were employed from 21st May to 6th June, from 23rd to 25th June, and from 5th July to 19th August. There is no fixed quota for each station, but only for each riding of the county. The total vacancies in the fixed quota of the entire county in the months of May, June, July and August, when extra men were employed, were six, eleven, two and 0 respectively. The extra police employed on the occasions mentioned consisted in all of 124 head and other constables and one district inspector from other counties, and 143 head and other constables and three district inspectors from the reserve force.

Housing Bill—Date of Introduction.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to introduce the Housing Bill.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I must refer my hon. friend to my statement in the House of Commons as to the course of business.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

British Flag in Colonial Waters.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): On behalf of the hon. Member for North West Lanarkshire, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what progress is being made with the arrangements for the provision of vessels to show the flag in Colonial waters.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): I have nothing to add to my reply to a previous Question from the hon. Gentleman on 26th February last,[†] except that since that date the "Scylla" has been sent out to the West Indies, and the "Monmouth" has been ordered to Vancouver to embark Prince Fushimi for Japan.

H.M.S. "Dreadnought."

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the condition of the rudders of the "Dreadnought" was only discovered when that ship was placed in dry dock; and, as that ship is to be stationed on the East Coast, what dry dock accommodation will be available there for her and for her sister ships which are now under construction.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The reply to the first of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I must refer the hon. Member to the full statement made by the First Lord in another place on the 1st May,[‡] and by the Civil Lord in the course of the debate on Vote 10 on 25th April.[§]

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Can the right hon. Gentleman say if there is a private dock on the East Coast capable of accommodating this vessel?

MR. ROBERTSON: I will inquire.

Rosyth.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can now state if the Report as to the ground on which it is proposed to place the foundations of the new dock at Rosyth is satisfactory or not.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The foundations are reported to be satisfactory.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many men are now employed on the work in connection with the naval base at Rosyth.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Eight workmen are now employed by the Admiralty and seven by the contractor carrying out work for the Admiralty.

Swiss Army Training.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the minimum training on enlistment and annually required in the Swiss Army and in the proposed Territorial Army, respectively, for men of the following branches: infantry, cavalry, and artillery.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1417–8.

[‡] See (4) *Debates*, clxxiii., 825 *et seq.*

[§] See (4) *Debates*, clxxiii., 294 *et seq.*

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): Under the new system which will probably come into force in July, the periods of training in the Swiss Army will be as follows:—

	Recruits Course.	The Elite.			The Landwehr.		
	Days.	Course.	No. of Days.	Total Days.	Course.	Days.	Total Days.
Cavalry - -	90	8	11	88		Nil.	
Artillery - -	75	7	11	77	1	11	11
Infantry - -	65	7	11	77	1	11	11

The recruits' course takes place in the 20th year. In the Elite the period of service is thirteen years for the artillery and infantry, and eleven years for the cavalry; in the Landwehr twelve years for the artillery, and infantry, and fourteen years for the cavalry; in the Landsturm six years. It will be observed that the training courses are not annual. The periods of minimum training on enlistment for the various arms of the Territorial Force are at present under consideration; and the training to be carried out annually in addition to annual camp have not yet been definitely fixed.

MR. ASHLEY: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question about the Territorial Army.

MR. HALDANE: I can only refer the hon. Member to what is specified in the Bill.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Do these figures represent an increase or a decrease in the number of days training in the Swiss Army?

MR. HALDANE: I think an increase.

The Special Contingent.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any estimate has been made of the proportion of persons serving in the special contingent who will be under twenty years of age at any given time; and, if so, what is the estimated proportion.

MR. HALDANE: No estimate has been made, but the probability is that the numbers will resemble in proportion the Militia ages given in Table 12, page 125, General Annual Return. Only experience will show what numbers will pass on to the Regular Army and what remain as Reservists

Volunteer Field Batteries.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before inviting the House to sanction the expenditure of public money upon the creation of Volunteer field batteries, he will definitely state whether it is still his intention to reduce the personnel of the Royal Horse and Field Artillery by 3,800, or by any other number, in order that the House may know whether it is asked to vote money for batteries as a supplement to, or in substitution for, the Regular Horse and Field Artillery.

MR. HALDANE: There is no question of using Volunteer Artillery in place of Regular Artillery.

40th Brigade Royal Field Artillery.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that on 7th March the 40th Brigade Royal Field Artillery received orders to proceed to Glasgow on 23rd May, and that on 11th May these orders were cancelled; whether, in view of the inconvenience and expense caused by the change to individuals in the Brigade, they will receive any compensation; and whether he will endeavour to secure that in future orders involving expenditure by individuals in taking houses and making other necessary arrangements shall not be cancelled on such short notice.

MR. HALDANE: The cancellation of the orders for the move of the 40th Brigade, as for the move of the 39th Brigade, took place under circumstances which—as I informed the hon. Member for the Southern Division of Hants—I regard as somewhat exceptional. I will therefore consider the grant of some assistance where individuals have necessarily incurred out-of-pocket expenditure to no purpose.

Bayonets and Swords.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the importance of our own troops being armed with the best type of bayonet and sword and the danger of being found unprepared, and the fact that it is now eighteen months since he reported that these matters were under consideration, he will take steps to accelerate the considerations of the experts to whom this duty has been entrusted.

MR. HALDANE: Experimental bayonets have been issued for trial by the troops and are still under trial. Experimental swords of the pattern recommended by the Committee which considered the subject will shortly be issued to the troops for trial.

Great Yarmouth Volunteer Camp.

MR. FELL: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, contrary to the practice of recent years, no Volunteers will go into camp at Great Yarmouth this summer; and, if so, what is the reason for making this change.

MR. HALDANE: The arrangements for Volunteer camps are in the hands of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, with whose discretion the Army Council does not propose to interfere.

Woolwich Arsenal Discharges.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many men were discharged from Woolwich Arsenal during the week ending 25th May; and how many he proposes to discharge during each of the following three weeks.

MR. HALDANE: Sixty men were discharged in accordance with the arrangement to proceed with the reduction at the rate of sixty per week, and in addition eleven men who would have had to leave later on were discharged on the 25th May at their own request. Sixty per week will be discharged during each of the following three weeks.

SIR J. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if any men have been discharged from Woolwich during the present year who have been in the service of the State for a period of ten years and upwards.

MR. HALDANE: The Answer is in the affirmative.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many men it is intended to discharge from Woolwich Arsenal, and at what rate per week.

MR. HALDANE: The number of men to be discharged from Woolwich Arsenal cannot as yet be fixed. The rate of discharges per week is sixty; this number does not include any voluntary resignations.

SIR J. RANDLES: Does that include any men who have been employed more than ten years.

MR. HALDANE: Yes. How many more will be discharged I cannot say, as our object is to find a minimum below which we do not want to let the establishment sink, and a maximum above which we do not wish to let it rise. We are getting towards that minimum now; but I do not like to give figures, for fear of raising hopes and creating disappointment. But the whole thing has been worked out.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked how much longer it would be before the minimum was decided on, and the system of weekly discharges discontinued.

MR. HALDANE: It is not expedient that I should make any definite statement until I can give absolute figures. But we are getting in sight of the requisite information.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether boys between the ages of fourteen and sixteen are now being engaged at Woolwich Arsenal at 7s. a week, while skilled men are being discharged from work.

MR. HALDANE: Yes, Sir. It is necessary to engage boys to fill vacancies for boys' work for which skilled men are unsuitable, and for which the latter have never been employed.

Artillery Practice for Territorial Force.

COLONEL WALKER (Lancashire, Widnes): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what provision has been made for the practice of the field batteries of the proposed Territorial Army; what ranges have been secured; and what sum has been set aside for the purpose of securing such ranges.

MR. HALDANE: This Question is premature. Inquiries as regards ranges are in progress, but it is too soon at the present stage to make definite arrangements.

COLONEL WALKER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any calculation has been made as to the amount of ammunition to be expended by the field batteries of the proposed Territorial Army; and what number of rounds per battery will be expended.

MR. HALDANE: The question of allotment of ammunition for annual practice to these batteries is now being considered.

Tidworth Barrack Stables.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will now state the name of the contractor who has been given the contract for erecting stables at Tidworth for the Scots Greys Regiment.

MR. HALDANE: The contract has not yet been placed.

Kynoch's Cordite Contract.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a large amount of cordite contracted for with Kynoch, Limited, has been rejected; whether the evidence of reports of the Explosives Committee, which sat continuously since its first appointment in 1900, justifies the addition of mercuric chloride to service explosives, or affords any reason for the failure of Kynoch, Limited, to disclose this practice to the War Office and Admiralty; and whether the addition of mercuric chloride enables the explosive to defeat the only official test known as the Abel heat test.

MR. HALDANE: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The reply to the second part of the Question is in the negative. As regards the last part of the Question the addition of mercuric chloride vitiates the Abel heat test which is used for testing supplies.

Territorial Army—Army Commissions for Officers.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the number of commissions in the Regular Army, which are now open to be competed for by officers of the Militia and Yeomanry, will be increased sufficiently to afford an approximately equal opportunity of joining the Regular Forces to officers of the new Territorial Army.

MR. HALDANE: The number of commissions in the Regular Army which can be offered to officers of the Territorial Forces must necessarily depend on the requirements of the service from time to time. It is not possible to give any definite Answer to this Question at the present stage.

Military Bands.

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any military bands are now supplied by agents for private engagements which bring them into unfair competition with civil bands; and whether, if this is so, he will take steps to prevent this practice.

MR. HALDANE: The orders issued by the Army Council enjoin that military bands are not to seek for or take up engagements through the medium of musical or other agents or through the Press, and that no engagement should be accepted on terms which are less than those which would in the same circumstances be offered to other than military bands. I am not aware of any occurrences of the nature mentioned in the Question, and I shall be glad if my hon. friend will furnish me with any such cases.

Crimean War—Bounties.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what bounties were paid for recruits in the last six months of the Crimean War; what was the number of Militiamen serving abroad at the close of the war; and what was the number of foreigners enlisted for service in the British Army in the German Legion and other corps.

MR. HALDANE: From the 22nd January, 1855, to the 16th January, 1856, the bounty was £10 for cavalry and £8 for infantry; from the 17th January, 1856, it was fixed at £5 and a free kit for both cavalry and infantry. The number of Militiamen serving abroad at the end of the war was approximately 5,500 rank and file. As regards the foreigners enlisted, Army Estimates for 1855–6 show that provision was taken for 14,950 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the foreign legions, but the exact number cannot be easily traced.

Cost of Field Artillery Battery.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the cost of a battery of the field artillery which has recently been supplied to the Regular Army.

MR. HALDANE: The average cost of a Q.F. 18 pr. battery, *i.e.*, guns, carriages, wagons, limbers, spare components and 1,000 rounds of ammunition per gun, is £27,000.

MR. ASHLEY: And how many batteries are there?

MR. HALDANE: I should not like to say from memory, but the information is easily obtainable.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): Are not many of them very old?

MR. HALDANE: No; we are keeping them up to the latest pattern.

Foreign Service Rules.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the grant to a soldier, having less than six years' continuous service abroad, of ninety days' furlough, on condition that he defrays the whole cost of his passage to and from England, is held by the War Office to break the continuity of his foreign service; if so, how long this view has been held by the War Office; and whether, in order to prevent the great hardships which must result from a misunderstanding of this point, he will cause the results of accepting such a special furlough to be clearly explained in future to every soldier applying for it by his commanding officer before the furlough is granted.

MR. HALDANE: As far as is known in this Department, no such case has occurred. But should a soldier defray the whole cost of his passage to and from England, the furlough would not cause a break in the continuity of his service abroad — provided that, in the case of India, the Indian authorities raise no objection.

Rifle Ranges for the Territorial Force.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if it is intended that the cost of providing and maintaining rifle ranges for the Territorial Force shall be exclusively defrayed by moneys provided by Parliament.

MR. HALDANE: It is intended that the money provided by Parliament shall cover all the necessary expenses of the Territorial Army, including necessary expenditure on rifle ranges.

Promotions from the Ranks.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is in a position to say if it is intended to secure commissioned appointments in the new Territorial Army for suitable non-commissioned officers who have passed through the ranks; whether it is proposed to make or issue any special orders or regulations as to the conditions under which such appointments will be offered; and, if so, could he indicate the lines upon which such orders or regulations will proceed.

Mr. HALDANE: The granting of commissions to suitable non-commissioned officers is now a matter of common occurrence in many volunteer corps and the practice will certainly be continued and encouraged under the new organisation. My hon. friend may rest assured that the non-commissioned ranks are far too valuable a source to be neglected in the effort to make up the deficient provision of officers for the Territorial Force. It is unnecessary to go into the question of issuing special orders or regulations on the subject at present.

Mr. J. WARD: Are no more special facilities to be given to the private in the Territorial Army to obtain a commission than have been given in the past? Are not the arrangements existing to be altered in any way?

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the percentage of commissions given to men in the ranks has decidedly decreased of late?

Mr. HALDANE: The number of commissions granted is affected by the fact that a large number of the men do not go on. It is impossible to make the profession of officer lucrative. But as to the notion that we are discouraging men to rise from the ranks to the position of officer, it is not true. In the Territorial Army we have large deficiencies of officers; and, to fill up the deficiencies, we are tempted to take officers from the ranks. There are a large number of officers in the Volunteers now who have passed through the ranks, and we hope that there will be as many in future.

Mr. J. WARD: Is it intended to increase the facilities in future?

Mr. HALDANE: We are increasing the outfit allowance so as to diminish the cost to the men who become officers.

Mr. PIRIE: Can the right hon. Gentleman explain the decrease in the percentage in the last two years?

Mr. HALDANE: During the war a great number of commissions were given all round, and a large number of men have resigned those commissions since. But there is no diminution and no desire to encourage the diminution of the number of commissions given to men in the ranks. On the contrary, we are short of officers in the Regulars as in the Territorial Army, and it is not likely that we should do anything to close a source of supply.

Mr. PIRIE: That is begging the question.

Mr. PIRIE: In view of the fact that this matter cannot be discussed on the Territorial Forces Bill will the right hon. Gentleman persuade the Government to give us another opportunity?

Mr. HALDANE: I hope it will be discussed to-day.

Mr. PIRIE: May I ask——

***Mr. SPEAKER**: Order, order! Notice must be given of further Questions.

Territorial Army Finance.

Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what proportion of the total estimated expenditure of £3,514,000 for the new Territorial Army will be subject to the audit and control of the accounting officers.

Mr. HALDANE: A little less than half the total will be accounted for in detail as direct War Department expenditure by the accounting officer. As regards the remainder, all payments to the associations will be subject to the audit and control of that officer.

Mr. McCRAE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the proposed grant in aid of £75 per company, after deducting association expenditure, will be allocated pro rata to each battalion, or whether county associations will have power to differentiate the amounts to be expended by each battalion under this and other heads of expenditure.

Mr. HALDANE: The £75 is, of course, an estimate, but, whatever the figure for the establishment grant may be, there is no doubt that discretion will be left to the associations as to the method of allotment, as the needs of corps will vary.

Territorial Army Walking-Out Dress.

MR. McCRAE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the proposed walking-out dress for the new Territorial Army will be of a uniform pattern for the whole force, or will conform to that of the territorial regiments of the line.

MR. HALDANE: I am not at present in a position to make a statement on this point.

Limerick Barracks.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he has received the Report upon the condition of the Limerick barracks, and what proposals he has made with a view to their redecoration and repair.

MR. HALDANE: The Report has been received and the necessary repairs have been carried out.

Soldiers' Song Book.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the compilation of a book of songs for soldiers has now been completed.

MR. HALDANE: The reply is in the negative.

Irish Militia and Yeomanry.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when he will be in a position to give detailed information on the intentions of the Government respecting the future employment of Irish Militia officers, the disposal of Irish Militia battalions of artillery, and the *status* of the North of Ireland and the South of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry.

MR. HALDANE: I hope before long to be in a position to give the hon. and gallant Member the detailed information which he requires.

Indian Army.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the Indian Army is unprovided with horse and field artillery (other than mountain batteries), it is contemplated, in the event of war, the Indian Army should take the field without horse or field artillery; and, if not, what is the number of regular batteries which will be required, and from what source they will be provided.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): The hon. Member has been misinformed. In addition to mountain batteries and heavy batteries there are now in India eleven batteries of horse artillery with five ammunition columns and forty-five batteries of field artillery with eight ammunition columns.

Colonial Conference Report.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the full Report of the proceedings at the Colonial Conference will be published.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): To-morrow, Sir.

Cable Communication in the West Indies

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Report of the Departmental Committee on cable communication in the West Indies may be expected.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Committee has already presented two Reports, but they are of a confidential character. The Committee is still sitting.

British Forces in the Transvaal.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government of the Transvaal has accepted the proposal of the Commandant of the Transvaal Volunteers for the reduction of the *personnel* of the Volunteers from 6,800 to 5,000, with a consequent reduction in the Estimates from £202,273 to £118,565; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make a corresponding reduction in the strength of His Majesty's forces stationed in the Transvaal, so that the burden now upon the taxpayers of the United Kingdom for the maintenance of the Transvaal garrison may be reduced.

MR. CHURCHILL: I understand that certain reductions of expenditure on the Volunteers were contemplated by the late Government in the Transvaal, and are being effected by the new Ministry. No detailed information has yet been received by the Colonial Office upon the subject, but it is believed that the efficiency of those forces will not be in any degree impaired, and that they will remain of adequate strength. It is not proposed at present to reduce the numbers of the Imperial troops in South Africa. The ultimate withdrawal of that garrison is, of course, the natural and regular consequence of the extension of responsible self-governing institutions, and will be in full accordance with the established colonial policy of this country; but, in view of the many elements of difficulty which the South African situation still presents, immediate action of this kind would be premature. General Botha has also expressed, on behalf of his Government, a desire that the Imperial forces in the Transvaal shall be maintained at proper strength, and has asked that ample notice should be given of any large reductions in order that the white population may not find themselves suddenly left without sufficient means of defence.

Dinuzulu.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the interviews which Dinuzulu is having with the Governor of Natal are of the nature of examination into his conduct during the late rebellion; whether the Governor of Natal has received the sanction of His Majesty's Government for carrying on this examination; and whether he will report its result to the Government.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Governor as Paramount Chief possesses large powers under the Code of Native Law, and in the exercise of his authority would be justified in putting any questions which he might consider necessary. Dinuzulu himself applied to see the Governor who will report by mail to the Secretary of State, and pending the receipt of his despatch I cannot say exactly what occurred.

*MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): Did Dinuzulu attend these interviews as a free agent, and was he warned beforehand that any statement he might make would be taken down in writing and might be used against him?

MR. CHURCHILL: I should imagine that in asking to see the Governor it was that his desire to come to a definite understanding.

New Hebrides Convention.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if under Article 33 of the New Hebrides Convention, women and children, natives of the New Hebrides, may be indentured and sent to New Caledonia; if so, is the nature of their employment clearly defined at the time of engagement; and whether the British Commissioner has any direct responsibility in the recruiting of such women and children for New Caledonia, or any power of revision of the conditions under which they are recruited and employed.

MR. CHURCHILL: The French Government remain under the Convention, as heretofore, solely and entirely responsible for recruiting in the New Hebrides for service in New Caledonia. The New Hebrides are islands which have never been annexed by any Power; the natives are not British subjects or French citizens. Consequently no Power has had any right to interfere with the recruiting operations of other persons than its own nationals. The French Government have, therefore, been solely responsible for the recruiting for New Caledonia (which has gone on for years past) exactly as His Majesty's Government have been solely responsible for recruiting for Fiji. This position could not, of course, be altered, even if it were considered desirable, without the consent of the French Government, which had and has equal rights in the New Hebrides with His Majesty's Government. It remains unaltered under the recent Convention. Licences to recruit for New Caledonia will be issued by the French representatives; the operations of the recruiters will be supervised by French officials; and when the labourer arrives in New Caledonia he will, of course, be subject to French law. This is the system which has been in force for years; and, from what I have said, it will be gathered that His Majesty's Government had and have no responsibility for its working nor any power to assume such responsibility if they desired it, any more than the French Government have any responsibility for or control over the British recruiting for Fiji. The Answer to the specific Questions of the hon. Member are therefore as follows; to the first in the affirmative, but I understand that the French Government contemplate prohibiting the recruiting of women and children for service in New Caledonia, unless accompanying the head of the family; to the second, that it is a matter for the French Government; to the third and fourth, in the negative.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Then am I to gather that other countries besides France and England will be permitted to recruit natives for any territories they may think desirable?

MR. CHURCHILL: That point is not raised by the Question, and I should like to have notice before answering it.

Orange River Colony Constitution.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state when the new constitution for the Orange River Colony will be published.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is hoped to publish the Orange River Colony Constitution in the Colony as well as in this country on 10th June.

Condemned Natives in Natal.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can say when the capital sentence passed on seven natives in Natal for the murder of a white man during the late rebellion will be carried out; whether communications have passed on the subject between the Colonial Office and the Governor of Natal; and if there is any probability that the Governor will use his power of pardon in the case of these prisoners or any of them.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir; but the Secretary of State desires me to say that he is confident that the Governor will exercise the prerogative of mercy in any case in which he can properly do so.

Native Rebellion in Natal.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the native rebellion in Natal is entirely at an end; does complete tranquility prevail in the Colony; and will the Secretary of State confer with the Governor upon the danger which may arise from a fresh series of native executions for events which occurred during the rebellion.

MR. CHURCHILL: The rebellion is at an end and martial law has been withdrawn. If the latter part of the Question relates to the murderers of Mr. Veal I must refer to my reply to a Question by my hon. friend on this case last Monday.†

Sir Matthew Nathan.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when will Sir Matthew Nathan take up his new duties as Governor of Natal.

MR. CHURCHILL: Sir Matthew Nathan will leave this country about the end of July; the exact date is not yet settled.

All-British Mail Route to Far East.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in connection with the Colonial Conference, any proposal was made to abandon the present mail route to India, Ceylon, and Australia, viâ Brindisi, in order to establish an all-British route viâ the Cape of Good Hope; and whether such a proposal, if made, would have the support of His Majesty's Ministers.

MR. CHURCHILL: No such proposal was made. I am not able to say whether it would, if made, have the support of His Majesty's Ministers.

Peking-Kalgan Railway.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information regarding the progress of the Peking-Kalgan Railway.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): A regular service of trains exists between

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1314–5.

Fengtai (on the Peking-Tientsin line) and Nank'on, a distance of over thirty-four miles, out of a total of 125 miles to Kalgan. It is expected that the line will be completed towards the end of 1909.

United States Tariffs.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether communications have been opened up with the United States Government with the view of securing for British manufacturers and exporters tariff concessions similar to those granted to Germany under the agreement recently concluded; and whether it is the view of His Majesty's Government that these concessions come within the provisions of the most-favoured-nation clause.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The only tariff concessions of which British exports to the United States do not get the benefit under most-favoured-nation treatment are those specified in Section 3 of the Dingley Tariff Act. Negotiations have been entered into with the United States Government with a view to securing on some or all of these articles the reductions given to other nations. The Answer to the last part of this Question is in the affirmative. But, as has been previously stated, the United States Government has contended hitherto that such concessions, being granted in return for a consideration, do not come within the scope of the most-favoured-nation clause.

Swatow Riots.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any information respecting the riots near Swatow, in China; and what steps have been taken to protect British interests in the disturbed districts.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend has no information on the subject except what has been published in the Press, and he is confident that His Majesty's Minister in China will report to him at once on the matter if it is serious. From official information received, the disturbances at Lienchow previously reported appear to have been unimportant.

British Interests in Siam.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he will be in a position to make a statement as to the effect upon British interests of the treaty recently concluded between France and Siam.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Under the terms of the treaty the three Siamese provinces of Battamberg, Siem-Reap, and Sisophon are ceded to France, and the right to hold land in Siam is granted in certain cases to French citizens and protegés; France cedes to Siam in return the districts of Dansai and Kratt, together with the islands to the south of Cape Lemling as far as, and including, Kokut; she also surrenders certain rights of extra-territorial jurisdiction in Siam. The exchange of territory described above has taken place within the sphere of French interests, as described by the Declaration of April, 1904, agreed on between Great Britain and France; and His Majesty's Government do not anticipate that British interests in the Far East will be politically affected. Questions of safeguarding the commercial interests of British subjects, who may have concessions in the districts exchanged, will be considered if occasion arises.

The Edalji Case.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the presiding magistrate at the trial of Edalji was a trained lawyer with professional experience of criminal cases; and whether he will lay Papers containing the note of the case taken for the use of the Court by the clerk of the magistrate.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The magistrate who presided at the trial is not, I understand, a practising lawyer, but he has great experience as Deputy-Chairman of Quarter Sessions. In a trial at Quarter Sessions the Clerk of the Peace does not take notes. The only notes taken are those made by the Chairman for his own use. I do not propose to lay any further Papers on the Table.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Home Office Estimates will be set down at an early date, in order to afford an opportunity to discuss the decision of the Government not to offer compensation to Edalji.

*MR. GLADSTONE: If the hon. Member wishes the Home Office Vote taken on an early day and will communicate with the Government through the usual channels, I have no doubt it can be arranged.

MR. F. E. SMITH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the prosecution of Edalji, any expert evidence was called to prove that he was the author of certain anonymous letters used against him at the trial; whether the same expert witness was called as was proved to have been mistaken in the Beck case; and whether any further evidence was called to prove that Edalji was the author of the letters in question.

*MR. GLADSTONE: An expert was called to explain the peculiarities of the writing of the anonymous letters and to give his opinion; but it was made clear to the jury that they must not accept the expert's *ipse dixit*, but must themselves compare the anonymous with the admitted writing and form their own conclusion. The letters themselves formed part of the evidence, and it was after most carefully examining them and forming their own opinion that the jury gave their verdict. The expert was Mr. Gurrin, who has admitted that in the Beck case he was mistaken in his belief that the disguised writing of 1896 was Mr. Beck's; but it is right that I should say that he gave before the magistrate, and was prepared to give at the trial, very positive evidence that the disguised writing of 1896 was in the same hand as the disguised writing of 1877, and that this evidence, if it had not been excluded at the trial, would, in the opinion of the Beck Committee, have established Mr. Beck's innocence.

MR. F. E. SMITH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any reason for withholding compensation from Edalji, other than the suspicion that he may have been the author of the anonymous letters which were produced in evidence at the trial; whether the question was specifically left to the jury whether Edalji was the author of the letters in question; whether there was any specific finding by the jury upon that point; and whether the Committee, who reported upon the propriety of the sentence, had any expert evidence before them, or any evidence additional to that which was called before the jury.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is that compensation has only been given in rare and exceptional cases, where a free pardon has been granted on the ground that the defendant's innocence has been completely re-established. The Answer to the second and third parts is that the letters were admitted in evidence and submitted to the jury, who examined them for themselves. The Chairman in his summing-up referred to the letters, but the jury found a general verdict on the whole of the evidence. As to the fourth part, Sir Arthur Wilson and his colleagues did not take any evidence, but they had before them the whole of the Home Office papers, including Reports on the handwriting, and they state in their Report that they themselves carefully examined the letters and compared them with Edalji's admitted handwriting.

MR. F. E. SMITH inquired whether, if this doubt had not arisen as to the authorship of the letters, compensation, consistently with the practice of the Home Office, would have been given to this man.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I am unable to answer that Question. I must refer my hon. friend to the Papers I have already laid on the Table, for they contain all that I really have to say on the matter.

MR. ASHLEY asked why this man was released if his innocence was not completely established.

*MR. GLADSTONE said that was a question which did not really concern him. The release was consequent on a decision arrived at by his predecessor with which, however, he agreed.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, while Edalji was in prison, any, and what, outrages occurred analogous in character to those for which he was convicted; what was the date and the place of such outrages; and what police reports have been received in respect of the same.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Three outrages of an analogous character occurred while Mr. Edalji was in prison, on the 21st September, 1903, the 2nd November, 1903, and the 24th March, 1904, all in the neighbourhood of Great Wyrley. Full particulars of these outrages were supplied by the police in reports to the Home Office. In one case the offender was convicted.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any notes were taken by the clerk or other servant for the use of the tribunal which tried Edalji or as a record of the proceedings; whether the Home Office are or have been in possession of a copy of such notes; and whether the Committee which recently reported upon the subject asked for or had before them a copy of such notes.

*MR. GLADSTONE: So far as I am aware, no notes were taken by the "Clerk or other servant" of the Court.

Fines For Gambling.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the action of the North London stipendiary magistrate in fining a youth one penny for a contravention of the Gaming Act; and whether he intends taking any action in the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Having made inquiry into his case I am informed that the offence charged was one under the Vagrant Act Amendment Act, 1873. The magistrate before whom the charge came, took the view that the defendant, who was a respectable young man, had been sufficiently punished by having been arrested and kept in custody for over two hours, and in view of all the circumstances of the case I see no reason for dissenting from this view.

Manufacture of Explosives—Kynoch's Case.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in order to prevent the danger of spontaneous explosion, the authorised list of explosives lays down that every explosive in the list and every ingredient thereof shall be so thoroughly purified and otherwise of such a character as to satisfy a test known as the Abel heat test, and specified in a memorandum dated 1st January, 1906; whether the Explosives Act has been contravened by Kynoch, Limited, adding mercuric chloride, which enables the explosive to defeat the official test, so that it might be in a state of decomposition and yet be passed as satisfactory; whether any communications have passed between the Home Office and the War Administrations in reference to recent seizures of explosives and to the facts elicited at the trial of Kynoch, Limited, on 22nd February, 12th March, 20th April, and 24th April; and, if so, will he communicate their nature.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is, as regards nitro-compound explosives, in the affirmative. The Answer to the second part is that Messrs. Kynochs have been convicted by the magistrates at Grays, in Essex, of the contravention referred to, and the conviction has been affirmed at Quarter Sessions, subject, I understand, to the decision of the High Court on the point of law whether the addition to the explosive of a very small percentage of mercuric chloride is contrary to the wording of the licence. The addition of even a very minute quantity of mercuric chloride to an explosive of this class does defeat the official test in the manner stated. I have arranged with my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War for the submission to a conference of experts of the question whether it is possible, consistently with the public safety, to deal with the seized explosive in any other manner than by destruction.

The Home Office and Kynochs, Ltd.

MR. G. A. HARDY (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of

State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a letter from the chairman of Kynochs, Limited, in which the Home Secretary is accused of straining the law against Kynochs, Limited, of being unjust and hostile, of refusing to arbitrate or to see the company's representative; and whether he can make any statement on the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. I have seen newspaper extracts containing statements of this nature. There has been no straining of the law. In the interests of public safety I have been bound to take action under the Explosives Acts. Arbitration, even if admissible under the Act, would not have met the requirements of the case. According to expert authority, and the regulations which necessarily I have to observe strictly, the use of chloride of mercury, as I have already stated, masks the heat test, and the explosive, therefore, cannot be passed as safe. The arbitration procedure does not give the necessary power to seize, and if need be, to confiscate the explosive, which may be a source of great danger. I have offered to consider any written statement which Messrs. Kynoch may wish to make, but I have nothing more to say while the matter is *sub judice*.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): Is it not a fact that the inspectors of the Home Office seized upon the magazines of Messrs. Kynoch and suspended the manufacture of this particular article for nine months, while during the same period inspectors passed explosives including the same ingredients by other English manufacturers?

*MR. GLADSTONE: There was no distinction made. If any explosive is found to contain chloride of mercury, or that which in the opinion of the experts is dangerous to the public, the case will be dealt with and dealt with firmly.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not a fact that to the knowledge of the inspectors at the Home Office the manufacture of this particular explosive manufactured in this particular way with this particular ingredient is going on by other manufacturers, and, further, whether similarly manufactured explosives are not imported into this country from South Africa and Germany containing the same ingredient, and in these circumstances why is one manufacturer singled out for this treatment?

*MR. GLADSTONE: It is not true that one manufacturer is singled out. In any similar cases brought to my knowledge similar proceedings will be taken. I am not aware of any explosive being manufactured with this ingredient where we are not taking steps to deal with it.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question. Is it not a fact that this explosive is being manufactured in exactly the same way, with the same ingredients, by other manufacturers to the knowledge of the Home Office inspectors?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I say emphatically, no. I am not aware of explosives being manufactured with this ingredient, or that such is taking place.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman taking any steps against other manufacturers, and, if so, why has he waited for nine months?

*MR. GLADSTONE: The case had been before the Courts of Law, and judgment has only recently been given by the magistrates. It was then taken to the High Court. It is quite obvious that until the law is decided it is impossible to take proceedings.

MR. BELLAIRS: May I ask whether it is not the case that there is not a particle of evidence against any other manufacturer?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not prepared to say that, but, as I have already stated, of course I will take steps against any manufacturer who puts ingredients which are dangerous into explosives.

MR. MOONEY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he makes up his mind to take actions against manufacturers in England will he take the same course that he did against Kynochs, and seize the magazines and prevent the manufacture for nine months?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That is really a hypothetical Question. I have really nothing to add to what I have already said.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.) asked whether, owing to the extraordinary dangerous nature of the ingredient, the right hon. Gentleman could not take criminal proceedings.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have to act according to the law, and I am doing so.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked whether it was not a fact that the inspector reported that other firms were making explosives of this kind, and how was it that the only firm attacked was one giving large employment in Ireland?

*MR. GLADSTONE said the proceedings against Messrs. Kynoch were due to the spontaneous explosion of some of their blasting gelatine. This led to an examination, which disclosed the presence of mercury.

Taximeters.

MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Scotland Yard have received any, and, if so, how many, complaints about the taximeter; and what steps he intends to take as regards sealing or stamping the taximeters, which are at the present time being used without official sanction.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Two written complaints respecting taximeters have been received, each instrument proving on examination to be out of order. In addition several verbal complaints have been received in which, as a rule, the person complaining was unable to identify the cab. The arrangements for sealing taximeters are almost complete, and it is hoped that at an early date all the unsealed taximeters will be withdrawn from use.

Dundee Postman's Grievance.

MR. WILKIE (Dundee): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. Jackson Smith, postman at Dundee, passed the examination for sorting clerk in July, 1904, and is informed that there is no likelihood of gaining any benefit by this for a very considerable period; and whether he will take steps to grant Mr. Smith an early appointment.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I regret to say that, owing to falling off in telegraph business, there has been a redundancy of staff at Dundee, and it has not yet been possible to provide Jackson Smith with an appointment at that office, nor is there any prospect of providing him with one at an early date. He can, however, be given an immediate appointment at Edinburgh, but this, I understand, he will not accept. I cannot, of course, create additional appointments for sorting clerks and telegraphists at Dundee which are not warranted by the work of that office in order to provide for a particular officer.

Australian Mail Services.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General when he can make a statement as to the new contracts to be entered into in reference to the Australian mails.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: For particulars of the decision come to in regard to the fortnightly mail service to and from Australia maintained by the Imperial Government I beg leave to refer the hon. Member to the detailed answer which I gave to two Questions in this House on the 27th ultimo.† The mail service in the intervening weeks is provided by the Commonwealth authorities; and I have no information as to the arrangements which will be made by them.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to give the House the information directly he receives it?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON pointed out that he had no responsibility in the matter.

Newport (Limerick) Postman's Grievance.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. John Hartnett, of Newport, Limerick, applied to be made a fully established postman, on the ground that he had six years' service as an auxiliary, and has been informed that his request cannot be complied with as there are a good many on the list with still longer auxiliary service; and whether he will take steps to ensure that auxiliary postmen in Ireland shall not have to wait such lengthy periods before being appointed to the staff.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1324-5.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: As Hartnett has not served in any of the capacities which give a claim to preferential appointment he has therefore no claim to an established appointment. It is sometimes possible to appoint a man in his position when no candidate with a claim is available, but all auxiliary postmen are made aware by means of a form which they sign when first employed that their appointment is temporary and gives them no claim to promotion. I regret that I am unable to make any exception to the general rule in favour of auxiliary postmen in Ireland.

Central Welsh Education Board.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Government contemplates moving the headquarters of the Central Welsh Board from Cardiff; and, if so, whether the Government will consider the claim of Aberystwith, which is the educational capital of Wales.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The headquarters of the Central Welsh Board is a matter for the decision of that Board itself. I have no knowledge of any proposal to move them.

All Saints' School, Halifax.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Board, when they decided to permit the local education authority of Halifax to cease to maintain the All Saints Church of England school, were aware that the failure to carry out the alterations required by the Board to be completed by the 31st March, 1906, was entirely due to change of purpose in respect of a purchase of a part of the premises, and consequent delay in approving the plans on the part of the local authority; that but for this delay the alterations would have been effected within the required time; that plans had been approved and work was about to be commenced when the Education Bill of last Session was introduced; and whether, under these circumstances, the Board will adhere to the terms of their letter of 24th February, 1907, will allow the managers to proceed with alterations for which plans have been approved and tenders obtained, and will continue to treat the school as necessary.

MR. MCKENNA: The reason given in the hon. Baronet's Question is among those alleged by the managers, but I understand the accuracy of this contention is not admitted by the local authority. Objection was taken to the buildings in September, 1903, and the school has already been granted an extension of more than a year. In view of the condition of the premises I am unable to interfere with the decision at which the local authority have arrived.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Is there any dispute as to the accuracy of the statement made by the managers of the schools? Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire, so that a great injustice may not be done?

MR. MCKENNA: I have formed my own opinion as to the right and wrong of this controversy, and under no circumstances will I endeavour to coerce the local authority.

Ness and Beauly Rivers Fisheries.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the Board of Trade fishery boundary of the Ness and Beauly Rivers extends from Chanonry Point to Fort George Barracks, will he explain why the river proprietors, through the local district fishery committee, have been allowed fishery rights to the estuary of these rivers many miles seawards outside this boundary.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I am not aware on what authority my hon. friend bases his statement as to the boundaries of these districts, and may refer him to Schedule B of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1868, which defines the boundaries. The rights of salmon fishing in the Ness and Beauly districts do not differ from rights held in other districts of Scotland, nor are they exercised in any peculiar manner.

Strathcarron Railway Crossing.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that children residing in the neighbourhood of Strathcarron railway station, Ross-shire, are unable to attend the Camatt public school except by crossing the Achintee river by means of the railway bridge, a practice which has been forbidden by the railway company as dangerous, will he state what steps have been taken to secure the construction of a footbridge over the Achintee river.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am not aware that the county council have taken any steps in the matter, which lies with them.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the lives of scores of scholars are being endangered when the river is in spate?

MR. SINCLAIR: The hon. Member should make representations to the county council.

Ullapool Steamer Service.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he can say why the steamer "Nightingale," which was put on by the Congested Districts Board to run between Loch Clash and Ullapool, calling at intermediate ports, in December, 1905, was taken off that service in April, 1906; and whether he will consider the desirability of giving a longer trial than four months to test the usefulness of the experimental service to aid the fishing and other industries on the west coast of Sutherland.

MR. SINCLAIR: I may refer my hon. friend to the last report of the Congested Districts Board, which gives particulars on this matter on page 16. The earnings from fish traffic which it was particularly desired to assist were so small that a repetition of the experiment was not felt to be justified in view of the heavy charge involved upon public funds.

Galway Barracks.

MR. GWYNN (Galway): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any steps have been taken to pull down the disused barracks which encumber the principal street in Galway.

MR. HALDANE: No steps have been taken to pull down the Shambles barracks at Galway, to which apparently the Question alludes. Arrangements are being made to sell the barracks.

MR. GWYNN: They have been going on for years.

Monaghan Post Office.

MR. J. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can state when the building of the new post office in Monaghan will be commenced; whether he is aware that the negotiations for the acquisition of the old buildings and the site in Mill Street in that town for the new post office have been completed, and that Mr. Clarke, postmaster at Monaghan, took over possession last week of the premises for the Postmaster-General; and if he will give instructions for the necessary advertisements in connection with the contract to issue as soon as possible, as well as the plans and specifications that have been prepared, so that the inhabitants of that town may have the benefit of a well-equipped building in which to transact their postal business.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: No opportunity will be lost to expedite this matter as far as possible.

Irish Post Office Stores Depot.

MR. MEAGHER (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster General, can he say why it has been decided that the Irish stores clerks who may receive appointments in the new stores depot at Dublin will be placed at the foot of the third class, which will have the effect, in view of their age and service, of practically debarring them from all hopes of further promotion, seeing that, when the postal stores and telegraph stores branches were amalgamated, the officers in both branches were placed on the class according to their relative salary and length of service; and will he say why the scale of salary for Dublin is to be £65 to £185, while the London scale is

£80 to £200, seeing that the cost of living in Dublin is admittedly as high as in London.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: In the case of the amalgamation of the Postal Stores Department and the Telegraph Stores Department the two separate Departments thereon ceased to exist and the staff of each had necessarily to be placed together in the new Department according to their previous standing. In the present instance the class of junior clerks in the Engineering Department, by whom amongst other duties stores work has hitherto been performed, will continue precisely as before, and the clerks can remain on their present duties (excepting only the stores work) with their present scale and prospects. I think, therefore, that the case is fairly met by my offer to receive applications for transfer on the usual condition of entry at the foot of the class, and I may say I have recived a number of applications for transfer on that condition. As regards the scale of pay the usual practice in all Post Office classes is followed.

Increased Price of Bread.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if his attention has been called to the recent rise in the price of bread; and whether, under the circumstances, he can take any steps to enlarge the sources of the supply of wheat from our Colonies so as to diminish the risk of wheat speculation.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): Yes, Sir, I am aware that an increase has recently taken place in the price of bread, but I know of no steps which I can take in the matter. The Government are not responsible for regulating the price of bread.

Judge Drummond.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, following the precedent set by him last year in the case of the discussion on the conduct of Mr. Justice Grantham, he will grant an early day for discussing the Motion on the Notice Paper with reference to language used by His Honour Judge Drummond from the bench on 21st May at Manorhamilton.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Answer is in the negative.

Members' Correspondence.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he has considered an adaptation of the practice of Government Departments, the introduction of free typewriting, or any other plan for relieving Members of this House of the strain and check upon the performance of public duty which the cost of Parliamentary postage imposes; and can he hold out any hope that a remedy, safeguarded against abuse, will be found at an early date.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid that hon. Members must make up their minds to answer their own letters without the assistance of the State either by way of the provision of free typewriters or otherwise. The receipt of many letters is one of the afflictions which we have to accept as incurable, and I am afraid that if His Majesty's Government undertook to answer hon. Members' letters for them, it would only aggravate the malady at its source.

Irish Standing Committee.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, having regard to Standing Order 47, which makes all Members representing Scottish constituencies members of a Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating exclusively to Scotland, and Standing Order 48, which makes all Members representing Welsh constituencies members of a Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating exclusivaly to Wales, do the Government propose, pending the establishment of a legislature in Ireland, that all Members representing Irish constituencies shall be members of a Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating exclusively to Ireland; and, if not, will he state what the intention of the Government is in this matter.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware that any section of Irish Members are in favour of an Irish Standing Committee.

Small Holdings and Allotments.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the fact that the Memorandum of evidence as to the demand for small holdings and allotments, and as to the difficulty of obtaining land for those purposes, was only intended to give one side of the case and to substantiate a statement made by the Prime Minister, if he will say whether, as this Memorandum is published at the cost of the country, he can now grant a Return which shall set forth the facts of the case in a fair and impartial manner.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The particular paper to which the Member refers was issued in answer to a challenge of the hon. Member's friends; but he will find the whole of the facts of which he is in search in the official papers indicated at the commencement of the Return. Perhaps I may once more repeat the somewhat elementary observation that the fact that land is available in one locality is no answer to the statement that no land is available in another locality.

Police Protection.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Prime Minister how many persons have been afforded police protection, whole and partial, during the past twelve months in England (including Wales) Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, and the reason for its being afforded.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am informed that during the past twelve months an average of 200 persons have been under special police protection in Ireland. As regards Scotland I understand that no such protection is at present being afforded; there has not been time to ascertain how matters stand with regard to England and Wales. It would be undesirable and entirely contrary to practice to state the reasons for the provision of special protection in individual cases.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee A.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 173.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 173.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and be printed. [Bill 219.]

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I took the course of asking hon. Members who had Questions on the Paper with regard to Bills before the House to postpone them or drop them, in order that I might, with the leave of the House, make a general statement as to the position of public business. I think that is the most convenient and agreeable course for Members of the House, and I hope they will approve of what I have done. On the Motion for the adjournment over Whitsuntide I gave a brief review of the position of business at that time, and proved, I think satisfactorily, that business was in a good position and that the time of the Session up to that moment had been well spent. I admit that there is one blemish. I hope I shall get credit for my candour. I admit that we have been rather backward in introducing Bills. I do not think it has caused any backwardness in business generally. But undoubtedly we have not dealt with some of the Bills we have undertaken to produce, and I do not hesitate to state what was the reason of that unreadiness, so far as it existed. It was due to the long autumn Session of last year. This is not the occasion, nor will I occupy the time of the House in attempting it, to discuss the often raised and rather controversial question of the proper disposition and allocation of the time of the House during the twelve months of the year. I have always entertained a desire, which is prevalent in most quarters of the House, to have an early summer rising. But the difficulty is how you are to make up for the time thus taken off. Although we may, and I hope we may, fall upon some way of distributing the business which will avoid the evil of which I speak, still undoubtedly there are great evils where the House is kept in the active process of legislation up to the days immediately before Christmas. Not because of any tax that that puts upon Ministers — they are the last people to be pitied, because it is their own doing if the business is so arranged

—nor of any inconvenience even to Members of the House, but because of this very evil to which I have referred, namely, that the draftsmen and officials of the departments are kept so occupied up to the last moment in watching and assisting in correcting legislation which is in process of passing, that they cannot devote their attention to the Bills that should be ready for the next session; and at the end of the winter session they deserve a short holiday. Therefore, practically, their work cannot begin until the new session has been inaugurated. I do not say that it is an insuperable evil, but it is a considerable evil, and at all events it is the cause on this occasion of the delay in introducing our Bills. With that example before me, I feel pretty sure that the House will approve of the decision of the Government that we should not repeat this year the autumn session. I know there are many of my hon. friends—gentlemen in all parts of the House—who are quite ready to sacrifice themselves; but the practical difficulties to which I have referred would be almost duplicated if there were two autumn sessions one after the other. There may be occasions when the pressure of business, or circumstances apart from the ordinary legislative business, require an autumn session, but I do not think it is desirable to have a busy legislative session as a whole kept up to the end of the year. From that, which is rather an *obiter dictum* directly affecting what I have to say to the House, I pass to the task which I have before me. I think the most handy and businesslike thing I can do is to take the King's Speech at the beginning of the session and see how we stand in regard to it. Our programme was, no doubt, a large one. It mentioned thirteen Bills of consequence. But that is not an extravagant programme. If it had been more extensive that it is, I think we could hardly be blamed, because we have been for many years prevented from carrying into legislative effect principles to which we have always proclaimed our adherence; and we should not have been worthy of the place we occupy if we had not made a strenuous endeavour to give effect to as many as possible of those principles. Well, there are thirteen legislative items. The first measure named in the Speech was a Bill for the reform of licensing, and the fact that it occupies the first place is a proof of our earnestness and of our desire to proceed with it with as little delay as possible. We have departed in no degree whatever from the opinion we have held on that subject. We believe that this is perhaps the most important and immediate matter to which the House can address itself. But this is precisely one of those measures which have suffered from the autumn session. The introduction of this Bill has been so long delayed that, although very great progress has been made in sketching a number of provisions which might be constituted into a Bill, it has been practically crowded out this session. But the obligation laid upon us remains. I myself gave last year a most positive pledge on this subject, one from which I do not recede for a moment. We feel ourselves bound by these pledges, as well as by our own instincts and desires, to promise that this great measure shall be the very first measure of next Session. I believe that any attempt to hurry a measure of this kind through the House would be unwise, and nothing may be lost after all by the time that is given for full consideration. I next come to the proposals for more clearly defining the functions of the Military Forces of the Crown. That refers to the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, of which I need only say that the House has received it, on the whole, with favour. Certainly the main design of it has been received with favour, and I have no reasonable doubt that it will pass without much difficulty into law. Then I come to Bills dealing with small holdings and valuation in Scotland. As to the first of these, it is before the Scottish Standing Committee, and I can only hope that the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London and his associates may not find it absolutely necessary to give to the greater part of the Bill that minute examination which has been devoted—[OPPOSITION cries of "Why not?"]—that minute examination which the hon. Member, no doubt for excellent reasons from his own point of view, had devoted to the first few words of the first line of the first clause of the Bill. The Scottish Valuation Bill has been introduced; I do not know that it has actually been circulated, but it will be immediately in the hands of Members. I now pass to the very large question of Irish legislation. The Irish Council Bill, although intentionally and designedly a measure limited in its scope, was, after all, a great measure, because it was so framed as to place under the direct control of the Council, of which by far the largest part was elected, and elected on the most extended franchise, all the chief Irish Administrative Departments—the Local Government Board, including administration of the Poor Law; education, primary, intermediate, and technical; the Department of Agriculture, reformatory and industrial schools; and the Board of Works, with all that appertains to it. That Bill also contains financial provisions that would have enabled this Council, had it been erected, to make great additions to the efficiency of the public services in Ireland. We believe that this measure was one which the Irish people would have done well to give greater attention to, in its details, than appears to have been bestowed upon it at the recent Convention. There appears to have been some misapprehension as to certain details, but those details, so far as they embodied any real fact or truth at all, could have been modified in Committee. Some of them seem to me to have been entirely misunderstood; but, the Leader of the Irish Party in this House having authoritatively announced that he would abide by the decision of that Convention, and the Convention having unanimously rejected it, we feel that we have no choice but to conclude that the entire influence of the Irish Members, speaking for the Irish people, would be thrown against the measure; and in those circumstances, which are a source of sincere regret and disappointment to us, we of course cannot go further with it. It is also clear to the Government, with regard to another great question, that of University education in Ireland, that no practical results can be expected to follow from the introtion, during the present session, of a Bill of that magnitude. During the autumn recess my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary purposes, in Ireland, to devote time and personal attention to this question, and my right hon. friend, whom we all know to be of a cheerful and even sanguine disposition, believes that it is possible and even likely that there may be established or discovered a harmony among the jarring interests and opinions on the subject in Ireland—a task I admit which has hitherto defied the best efforts of the pacificator. We do, however, intend to produce in this session, and at an early date to press forward with all the means at our command, a Bill for the restoration of evicted tenants, and to obtain such compulsory powers of purchase as may be necessary to give immediate effect to a long-standing Parliamentary pledge. The object, I believe, will not be without support above the gangway on the other side. The next item in the King's Speech was a Bill for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal. That Bill has been read a second time, and the tenor of the debate is such as to give us good reason to hope that there will be no undue delay. Next in order comes the regulation of the hours of labour in mines. A Bill, as we all know, has passed the Second Reading unanimously. It is a private Member's Bill, and that Bill, obviously and on the face of it, requires elaboration. My right hon. friend the Home Secretary had appointed a Departmental Committee, and I cannot mention that Committee without speaking of the debt we are all under, all of us, and especially those interested in this question, to the Member for Gloucester and those who served on the Committee with him for the manner in which they conducted the inquiry. They have held a most careful and strenuous investigation into the economic conditions and aspects of this question. They have now rendered their Report. That Report, in the first place, shows how absolutely necessary it was to have this inquiry; and, in the second place, it, I hope, furnishes a prospect, at any rate, of a basis for agreement on the subject. My right hon. friend hopes to be able very shortly to prepare a Bill in the light of the Report of this Committee, and, if it is found that differences are not very great, he is not without hope that that Bill may pass during this session. A more likely contingency would be that it should be introduced, that it should be criticised, and be the subject of arrangement and consultation and suggestion and perhaps compromise during the autumn, and that I think is pretty certain to give a satisfactory, workable, and therefore more easily carried Bill in the Session that is to come. In either of those cases, no time will have been wasted by this Committee of my right hon. friend. I pass to the Patent Laws. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade is piloting that Bill through the Committee, and I do not think it will make any large demand on the time of the House. With regard to valuation in England and Wales, I may be allowed to remark that this is not so simple or straightforward a matter as in Scotland, because in Scotland we have the great advantage of an admirable machinery and assessment system to which we can add any further functions or directions that we choose to give. But in England that cannot be said. The machinery here is complicated and defective. I trust there will not be much bitter controversy on the subject, and I am the more hopeful in that respect because the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin brought in a Bill in a recent year for this very purpose, and I believe that the main provisions of that Bill can be taken as the basis, at any rate, of any further Bill upon the subject. I would only say that this makes it, of course, difficult to speak positively as to the introduction of this Bill, and its passing into law during this session. We propose to incorporate—it is right that I should say so—with the machinery, proposals or a clause on the lines of the provision in the Scottish Bill, providing for the separate valuation of land divested of improvements. If the happy result should arrive that this Bill can pass, so much the better; but if not, we are well aware it is only due to the authorities that they should be informed of what is intended, and there should also be an opportunity again of receiving suggestions and representations from them, and the way will have been made clear for legislation at the earliest available time. The next Bill on my list is the English Small Holdings Bill, which has had a most favourable reception on the whole, and, above all, it has been fortunate in eliciting an expression of an urgent desire on all sides—particularly among those who think that they are especially able to speak with authority for the landowners of the country—for a great extension of the facilities for the purchase of land. A sort of coroner's inquest has been held on a speech of mine in which I spoke of the denial of land where it was required. I made no allegations then against any particular class or any particular individual. I merely stated what I know to be a fact, but I am very glad that the language I have used has drawn from such high authorities such explicit and unmistakable expressions of their earnest desire to go forward in the matter of the sale of land or the disposal of land for the purpose of small holdings. There ought not to be such a difference of opinion upon this subject as to justify protracted debate. The next item is that of the housing of the people. My right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board has had a Bill drafted which he can produce at any moment, and will introduce, if it is thought it would be beneficial to the cause that it be introduced this session. That exhausts my list, with the exception of one Bill, a Bill to enable women to serve upon public authorities, which Bill has been introduced into another place, and, in a somewhat improved state of feeling, will not, I hope, prove to be a contentious measure. These are the Bills which were named in the Speech; but now I come to another Bill which has been introduced since the commencement of the session—namely, the Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill. The Government, after much hesitation, and much regret in many respects, have determined that it is not desirable to go further with that measure. The course of business and the prospects of next session have been considerably modified since this Bill was introduced, and we see our way to propose that we should undertake next session the great task of putting the educational system of the country in order. We intend to give effect to the principles which we have always adhered to on the subject—principles with regard to the control and management of the public elementary schools of this country. It can never have been supposed, I should think, by any one that we should be content to acquiesce in the position of affairs which was left by the action of the House of Lords at the end of last session; and therefore this announcement that in the very earliest session available to us we will deal with this question on broad lines, which will be our own lines—this announcement cannot give rise to any surprise. [Mr. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.] Apparently I am exactly anticipating the wishes of the right hon.

Gentleman. We are most anxious, of course, as any one must be, to give relief to those who are suffering for conscience sake — we fully appreciate the tremendous sacrifices that are being made for conscience, and which will continue to be made, or be in danger of being exacted, so long as the Act of 1902, which was the work of the Leader of the Opposition, remains in its provisions unrepealed and unlimited. But we think it is a wiser course not to proceed now with the smaller measure. If I describe this smaller measure as an unsatisfactory Bill, I do not wish to be misunderstood; it is not because I agree in any measure with the objections taken against it on what I call denominational grounds; it is on the very opposite grounds that I think it is unsatisfactory. The objection I have in my mind, and which I think is largely entertained on this side of the House, is directed against the adoption of any legislation calculated to give further currency and Parliamentary sanction to the idea that a denomination is entitled to secure for a financial consideration that its particular tenets shall be propagated to nearly half the children in the elementary schools in the country. Therefore, although this small Bill would have a relieving effect to many of those suffering, yet it would have had other effects as well which it is desirable to avoid; and with the immediate intention and prospect of full relief by the adoption of a larger measure I think the best thing is not to proceed further with this Bill. Now I have gone over my list of measures proposed in the King's Speech. I said when I began that I hold both the progress made and the prospect of progress during the rest of the session as satisfactory. I think I have given handsome proof of this in dealing with the different measures we have got. Shall we be criticised on this ground from the other side of the House? I looked, with some tremor, because I did not know what I should discover, into their record, and I find that right hon. Gentlemen opposite when they were in office during the last two years of their reign mentioned twelve Bills in the King's Speech, and passed three. Three out of twelve! I think we shall do better than that. The singular fact that three out of twelve was accomplished in 1904 and repeated in 1905 rather leads us to believe that that is their normal pace, and that they consider it a proper proportion. I have no fears, therefore, of being taunted with doing little justice to the programme advanced at the beginning of the session. The House will have gathered from what I have already said that we do not intend to call Parliament together for an autumn session. What we do propose is, if I may recapitulate, to pass before the prorogation the following measures:— The Finance Bill, the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, the Small Holdings Bills, England and Scotland, the Valuation Bill (Scotland), the Patents Bill, the Court of Criminal Appeal Bill, the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, and the Women on Local Authorities Bill, and other less conspicuous Bills which I need hardly enumerate. But let me guard myself against being supposed to be too sanguine, and presuming too much; when I speak of passing a Bill and not being able to pass a Bill I am referring to this House alone. I can only speak for this House. This list is not too much, we think, for this House to pass within the reasonable limit of a session, provided we have, and I make no doubt that we shall have, reasonable co-operation and good will in all parts of the House. But when I look abroad, when I look beyond the House of Commons, my powers of prophecy and forecast fail me altogether. No one can tell, I have no knowledge, and no one, on this side of the House at least, has knowledge of the treatment which will be measured out to our legislative endeavours in another place; as to that we are completely in the dark, unless occasionally we are vouchsafed a a little gleam of enlightenment from the right hon. Gentleman opposite. Sir, it is not only that the views, the theories, and the sympathies which are predominant there are, as it seems to us, in conflict with the judgment given by the electorate, of which sometimes they seem to take no account; they are more universally in conflict with the tone and spirit which have been breathed into this assembly. That is why we can form no estimate. What defies calculation is that their power of destruction is so capriciously exercised. One Bill comes before them which is denounced as fraught with disaster, red ruin, and breaking up of laws, and yet after all it comes back to this House unamended in any particular. Other measures, no doubt displeasing to Members of that House, and the classes and orders of men to which they belong, are suddenly discovered to be so dreadful that they are subjected to arbitrary and summary treatment. In those circumstances, we cannot count upon them, and we have nothing to do with any estimate that can be made as to what may happen elsewhere. And here I come to the end of my task; but I am brought by this grave consideration with which I have just been dealing to another subject, the promise made in the King's Speech. It would have been out of place in my little review of the King's Speech, because it had nothing to do with immediate legislation. The House will recollect the declaration then made of our deep sense of the importance of this matter. The words in the Speech were these—

> "Serious questions affecting the working of our Parliamentary system have arisen from unfortunate differences between the two Houses. My Ministers have this important subject under consideration with a view to a solution of the difficulty."

Some hon. Members have taken it into their heads, apparently, that we are half-hearted in this matter, and I have had numerous inquiries made by inquisitive Members as to when we should proceed to take action in the matter. I am glad to be able now to relieve that anxiety. We have long been of opinion that things cannot be right with our legislative system so long as matters remain as they are. I do not believe there is any man who justifies the present position of affairs. There may be some who find it convenient for their own purposes, but they cannot defend it either in principle or in practice. Therefore, I do not doubt there may be a good deal of united feeling in the matter. But at all events, whether or not we receive support from the side of those who have been impressing upon me the desirableness of acting speedily, we propose, as soon as we have made a very little further way with the essential business of the session, to bring forward a Resolution on the subject. [OPPOSITION laughter.] And this [pointing to the OPPOSITION benches] is the Constitutional Party! We propose to bring forward a Resolution on the subject, which I believe to be the proper and invariable Parliamentary proceeding. It will be moved either on the 17th or the 24th of this month, probably the 24th; and we will then state fully our view of the matter, and shall be glad to submit that view to the judgment of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): The House has been treated by the Prime Minister to a statement of great importance; but the right hon. Gentleman will forgive me for saying that, so far as I know, the course he has to-day pursued is one totally without precedent in making a highly controversial speech which ended with an elaborate attack or advance attack on the other House of Parliament. Such a speech has never been made by the Leader of the House except upon some substantive resolution. The right hon. Gentleman spoke by leave of the House. He spoke, therefore, in a sense, without authority. I am following equally by leave of the House; and those who will follow me—as doubtless there will be some to follow me—will be in an equally irregular position. The right hon. Gentleman spoke for three-quarters of an hour. He touched upon topics of the profoundest interest, and it is impossible that such a statement should be allowed to pass without some criticism from me. Observe that the day which the right hon. Gentleman has selected for this performance is one on which, by his own action, the House is precluded from pursuing its ordinary course of moving the adjournment, and is also a day when the closure comes into operation at half-past ten o'clock. The right hon. Gentleman assured us more than once that he was extremely well satisfied with the state of public business. What is the position of public business? June has begun, and no Government measure of first-class importance has reached the Committee stage except the Army Bill. That Bill is in Committee under conditions which limit debate. Its main provisions have not been discussed. Yet on one of the few days we are allowed to consider it the right hon. Gentleman comes down and for three-quarters of an hour comments upon what has passed this session, what is going to pass in the autumn by way of negotiation, what is going to happen next sesson, and he seasons his observations by an attack on the other House by way of lightening the general gloom of his picture. If the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to congratulate him on one matter, it is that he has come round to the opinion which I ventured to lay before the House on many occasions last year with regard to the propriety or impropriety, expediency or inexpediency, of autumn sessions. I ventured then to say that it is impossible, under a system of autumn sessions, to carry on the business of the country. The right hon. Gentleman has put the difficulty down to the draftsmen. But I say that the Ministers who have to direct the draftsmen cannot do their work. This Ministry in particular have not done their work, and largely because they have been so occupied with the autumn session that they were not able to give their minds to framing the lines of the measures which it is their business and not that of the draftsmen to frame. But the right hon. Gentleman will forgive me for saying that I do not think the Government are likely to be in a very much better case under his new method of conducting the business of the House than under his old method. He has told us there is to be no autumn session, but he lays down a programme which I venture to think will take us well on into October before it can by any possibility be concluded. I will not say much about the programme for next session. The right hon. Gentleman told us he had shown his earnestness in favour of temperance reform by putting the Licensing Bill in the forefront of the King's Speech. But what is the use of putting a Bill in the forefront of the King's Speech if, on the very first occasion a statement is made about it, it turns out that the Government do not propose to present it and have not had even time to prepare it? When the Government put this measure first in the King's Speech by way of showing their enthusiasm in the cause of temperance reform, if they had not the Bill drafted at that time, they were not treating the Sovereign as he should be treated ["Oh, oh"], and certainly they were not treating this House as it should be treated. Now it turns out that after they had been reflecting on the temperance question for all these years out of office, and for eighteen months in office, they did not know what the Bill was going to contain, and they do not know now. What is the programme which the right hon. Gentleman, who says he is so well satisfied with the state of public affairs, has put before us?—a programme which would have included the Irish Council Bill, if the Government had carried out what I always thought was their view, that in legislating for Ireland they should consult Irish opinion. It is quite evident they never consulted Irish opinion before introducing that Bill; and it is only owing to that singular accident that we are saved from adding to the programme the enormous controversy which any Bill dealing with local government in Ireland must necessarily provoke in this House and in the country. Well, what is the programme for this session? There is the Resolution about the House of Lords. I do not know how long the right hon. Gentleman thinks that will last, but I do not imagine he thinks that a great constitutional change can be dealt with in a few hours. There are the remains of the Territorial Forces Bill. There is the South African Loan Bill, which has not been mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman. [A LIBERAL MEMBER: Will it be opposed?] It will certainly be opposed; but whether it is to be criticised or not, I do not understand why it has not been mentioned by the Prime Minister. Then there is the Eight Hours Bill for mines. There is the Scottish Valuation Bill, which has not reached the Second Reading, and which raises questions of the deepest importance. There is the English Valuation Bill, of which the same may be said, because nobody is likely to be taken in by the right hon. Gentleman's naïve observation that that Bill was in the main to be founded on a measure suggested by my right hon. friend the Member for South Dublin. That is a good foundation, no doubt; but the right hon. Gentleman is going to build on that foundation by adding provisions which cut at the root of the most fundamental principles in regard to property. The right hon. Gentleman knows that cannot be done, and ought not to be done, without the fullest consideration. Then there is the Evicted Tenants Bill, which was not mentioned in the King's Speech, by the way, and which is not yet drafted. There is the English Small Holdings Bill, which has not reached the Second Reading. The right hon. Gentleman, with an air of surprise, congratulated Members on this side that they showed a desire to see the purchase of land facilitated in England. We have always desired to see the purchase of land facilitated in England, in

Ireland, and in Scotland; but when the right hon. Gentleman bases upon that view an opinion that the English Small Holdings Bill requires no discussion in this House, I would remind him that that Bill does not involve the purchase of land, and that it embodies many other and very important principles, including the coercing of county councils by a Government Department. These are projects the right hon. Gentleman desires to see hurried through before the rising of the House. Lastly—perhaps relatively unimportant—there is the Pacific Islands Bill, which is absolutely necessary to carry the Convention, for which he is responsible, into effect, and there are other Departmental Bills, like the Wireless Telegraphy Bill, which must be passed. There is the Budget Bill, which must be passed, and there is, I suppose, the House of Lords Resolution, which is to be passed before the end of the month. So there is the whole propaganda, not to mention the Departmental Bills, which, as the right hon. Gentleman says, are more or less in the background, to go through before the House rises, during the months of July and August, I suppose September, and not improbably far on in October. Of those Bills how many are drafted? The House of Lords Resolution we have not seen; the South African Loan Bill we have not seen; the Eight Hours Bill we have not seen; the Scottish Land Valuation Bill—has it reached Second Reading? [Cries of "No"; "Not printed."] It has been introduced, and if it has not yet been printed, weeks having been allowed to pass; that is a gross irregularity which, no doubt, the Minister in charge will see remedied at once. The English Bill we have not seen; the Evicted Tenants Bill we have not seen; the Small Holdings Bill has received a First Reading; the Housing Bill we have not seen; and there are Departmental Bills we have not seen. The right hon. Gentleman is satisfied with the position; is anybody else satisfied? Is there any other human being in the House who has heard my enumeration of Bills and description of the state of public business who will say that the position is what it ought to be, and is not most discreditable to those who are responsible for it? It is not as if the Government had introduced a great many measures which have not passed; they have not been introduced, not drafted, not decided upon; and in the near neighbourhood of the dog days we are going to have a whole mass of legislation thrown at our heads without even now having the least idea of what that legislation is going to be. Yet this sanguine Government have even now got so far in the construction of the King's Speech for next session that they tell us they are going to deal with the Irish University question by a Bill which is not to be on the lines which their late colleague said were the only lines that would be acceptable to the Government. I confess I do not understand the view of Ministerial responsibility the Government seem to hold. I imagine that Mr. Bryce, when he was a member of the Government, spoke for the Government, and the fact that he is no longer a member of the Government does not render his words wholly vain and nugatory. I, therefore, listened with amazement when the right hon. Gentleman said the lines which Mr. Bryce said were the only lines the Government would consent to consider are to be abandoned. I am glad they are to be; but they are to be abandoned by the unfortunate Minister who has now charge of Irish affairs, and he, poor man, is to spend his autumn in devising a new Irish Universities Bill. But the Home Secretary is still more to be pitied, for he is not only to spend his autumn in trying to devise a temperance measure, but he is also to be occupied in negotiating an Eight Hours Bill for mines to be passed next year. Last of all, we are to have education reform from top to bottom on broad lines. But is that to come before temperance, or is temperance to come before education? and where are we going to find the interstices for the Eight Hours Bill and the Irish University Bill? All this programme is irregular, is inopportune in the time chosen for its description; surely it is mere word-building. The right hon. Gentleman must know as well as I that this or next session will not suffice to carry out the programme he has in a sanguine spirit chosen to lay before us. I do not believe that any Government on 3rd June ever promised so many first-class Bills in the hope of passing them in the same session, some of the Bills not having been even introduced. The right hon. Gentleman has referred to precedents; but can he find any Government, either of his own Party or of this, who ever on 3rd June announced—not for an autumn session, but in a normal session—seven first-class Bills for passing, not even read a first time? I do not think the right hon. Gentleman has cause to congratulate himself, as I thought he did, on the position. If he is happy, it is hardly for us of the Opposition to complain. I agree with him that the heaviest labour falls on the Ministers—perhaps less on present Ministers than others I have known—but the greatest labour does no doubt fall to the Ministers; but if he looks forward with satisfaction to sitting on to October it is not for the Opposition, whose labours are lighter and in many respects far more agreeable, to complain. I believe that the part of the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that will attract more general interest than the fantastic programme written on a slate to be afterwards wiped off, though it occupied the larger part of the three-quarters of an hour—the great topic of interest is, after all, the Irish Bill. Upon that I do not mean to dwell. I suppose the Leader of the Irish Party will have something to say upon that, but I may congratulate the House upon the abandonment of a Bill which had no merit whatever from any point of view. It most ingeniously contrived to dissatisfy every Party and every fraction of a Party in the House. It is not the kind of measure upon which it was worth while to ask the House to spend great labour through weary nights and days, and the House is to be congratulated upon the position at which it has arrived. But why was that position necessary? Why was there this division of opinion between the Ministers who brought in the Bill and those whom the Bill was to satisfy? I should have supposed that there would have been formal, or at all events informal, communications passing before the introduction of the Bill; but of that I can say nothing—others are more deeply concerned than I; but this I will say, that it is one of the most singular attempts I have yet seen to govern Ireland according to Irish ideas. I am aware that, like the Prime Minister, I am only speaking by the leave of the House, and we are both irregular. I think I have dealt with all the topics suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, and I have only to thank the House for the courtesy of listening to a speech which I admit has been somewhat controversial in character, but which was not unprovoked.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I take it for granted the House will extend to me, as to others, its courtesy for a few moments. I can, however, promise not to abuse that indulgence by delivering a controversial speech. I have risen only for the purpose of making two or three remarks which seem to me are rendered necessary by the statement of the Prime Minister. First, let me say upon the topic that concerns all Members—the advancement of business and the convenience of Members in all quarters of the House—that while I admit there was no other course open to the Prime Minister than to abandon an autumn session this year, at the same time I entertain the view very strongly indeed that the only way in which the accumulating business of the House can in any degree be effectively transacted is by regulating the arrangements for the sittings of the House, so that, adjourning earlier in the summer, a regular autumn session might be held every year. In that way the House would be enabled to rise early in July, and I do not think the majority of Members would object to a two months' sitting in the autumn to finish before Christmas. I do not think that any other satisfactory arrangement can be made for discharging the duties imposed on the House. With reference to the Irish Bill, to which the Leader of the Opposition has just alluded, I have only one or two observations I desire to make. I am not one of those who was greatly astonished or greatly disappointed with what has happened. I know, as every practical man knows, that the late election resulted in the return to the House of, I believe, a substantial majority of Members who believe that the ultimate settlement of the Irish Question can only be found in putting full trust in the Irish people in the same way as it was given to the French in Canada and to the Dutch in the Transvaal, and so forth. At the same time, I knew as a practical man that the Government would not, for reasons which I need not enter into now, but which I deplored most earnestly at the time, introduce in this session of Parliament a Home Rule Bill. I further realised, I never in any communications which I may have held with anybody disguised the opinion, and always realised that in attempting this half measure, Ministers were undertaking an impossible task, and that they would find by hard experience that there was no alternative, no reasonable or logical alternative, to a full trust in the people in this matter. Although I have been willing, and I have done my poor best as far as I could, to assist those who were endeavouring to find such a settlement as was attempted, I never for one moment disguised from myself that the task was in the nature of a hopeless one, and that it would be impossible to devise a really workable and logical half-measure. With reference to the Bill itself there are one or two matters to which I desire to allude. First of all the Prime Minister said that it seemed in his view that it would have been possible, if the Bill went into Committee, for us to obtain all those Amendments we considered vital to the Bill. I daresay we might have induced the majority of this House to make some Amendments, and I agree with the Prime Minister that apparently there was some misunderstanding with reference to some of the more vital portions of the Bill, because I have heard it stated since that—for example, on the question of the Lord-Lieutenant's veto—we did not fully understand the mind and intention of the Government. What I want to point out is that on the point which we all considered the most vital of all, viz., on the constitution of the body, I had no belief, and I have not now, from anything I have heard or knew, that in Committee it would have been possible for us to have obtained an Amendment such as I might say without any breach of confidence we pressed on the Government as strongly as we could. My information was entirely to the contrary. That was a settled point, and there was no hope that we should be able to obtain that Amendment if we went into discussion on the details of the Bill. There is only one other matter about the Bill I want to allude to. I was astonished when I came back to this country from Ireland to find that an idea was prevalent among some Members in this House that the defeat of the Bill, in Irish public opinion, was due to clerical interference and influence. One of the heart-breaking things about Ireland is that it seems to be impossible for people in this country thoroughly to understand Irish questions or Irishmen. I appeal to all my colleagues in this House who are around me, and many of whom, remember, are Protestants, whether it is not absolutely true for me to say that there never was a decision given in the field of Irish politics which was less influenced by any clerical considerations whatever. The point which is in the minds of some hon. Members with reference to the education portion of the Bill was not discussed to any considerable extent in Ireland at all, and one, two, or three eminent ecclesiastics who did speak upon the Bill actually picked out this as the only redeeming feature of the Bill. The Archbishop of Dublin himself said that the educational portion was the only redeeming feature he saw in the Bill. I therefore say that there never was a more complete misunderstanding of the case than the idea which has been spread abroad in this country that the result was influenced by clerical interference. It was not. It was, if I may so describe it, a perfectly genuine and spontaneous outburst of Irish lay opinion on this question. I, who had been considering this matter, and considering details, to see whether it was possible that something in this direction could be done, was not shocked by the Bill in the same way as men to whom it came for the first time. When these people, who, while they were not expecting full Home Rule, did expect something short of Home Rule and which should yet mean a complete trust in the people, saw this Bill put before them, there was a spontaneous outburst of public opinion, not influenced by me, not influenced by my colleagues in this House or by my colleagues in Ireland or by public men of any sort—an absolutely spontaneous outburst, in the face of which it was absolutely impossible to believe the Bill would meet with any other fate than that which overtook it. The rejection of the Bill raises very serious considerations. The Irish people care comparatively little about all your ameliorative legislation compared with the question of self government, and the rejection of this Bill raises the serious question in what direction they will marshal their forces so as to put this question again in the forefront of Imperial politics. I pass now to another matter. I confess I heard with great regret the statement made by the Prime Minister on the University question. Let me in two or three sentences recall to the memory of the House how the matter stands. The late Government declared that they could not deal with this question until there was practical unanimity of opinion in Ireland. That meant, of course, the practical shelving of the question, because you never can have practical unanimity on a question of this kind in Ireland any more than you can have practical unanimity of opinion on any educational question in England. But when the present Government came into office they adopted what I regard as a much more statesmanlike and reasonable attitude. They first appointed a small Commission to complete an inquiry already set on foot to inquire into the whole problem of University education, and when the Report of that Commission came out the late Chief Secretary (Mr. Bryce) made a most remarkable speech, and he made it under most extraordinarily dramatic circumstances. The new Chief Secretary had been appointed. He had not actually taken up office, but I understand as a matter of fact that he held office at that time. At any rate he did hold office a few days afterwards. He was nominated for the office and Mr. Bryce went over to say his farewell word to the Irish people, and, by way of farewell to them, he made them a solemn promise, not, mark you, on his own behalf or on behalf of himself alone, but as the representative of the Government and on behalf of the Government, and what he said amounted to this: that the policy of the late Government in hanging up this question until there was absolute unanimity in Ireland was not the policy of the present Government, that they were determined to take up this question, to introduce a Bill immediately, and he proceeded to sketch in detail what he said was the Government scheme. Whatever differences there may have been as to the merits of this scheme in comparison with other schemes previously suggested, this at any rate was the result of that action: that all those who represented at any rate Catholic and national opinion came out and declared that they would accept his scheme. The representatives of the Irish Nationalist Party said so; the Irish Hierarchy said so; and practically all those in Ireland who may be classed in the terms Nationalist or Catholic declared that they would accept the scheme, although in many cases it was not the one that they individually would have preferred. But now, not only are the Government not going to introduce this Bill this session, but we are face to face with the fact that they are not going to introduce it at all. I did not believe that they could pass it this session, but I did believe they could introduce it, as they are doing with reference to another Bill mentioned, for discussion in the autumn. Not only that, however, but they have absolutely reverted to the policy of their predecessors, that is to say, they (the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary) are to spend time in devising a scheme that will unite everybody in Ireland. Well, that is an impossible task. No one knows it more than the Chief Secretary himself, and I think it is most lamentable that this backward movement should be made upon this question. One word upon another subject before I sit down. I rejoice extremely that the Government are going promptly to fulfil the promises made at the beginning of the session with respect to the evicted tenants by giving the Estates Commissioners powers to take land compulsorily in order to restore these men to their homes. [An HON. MEMBER: How many of them are there?] The Chief Secretary promised the figures before the end of May, and said that by then his inquiries would be completed, and that he would be able to give the exact figures. But I do not think—I say this, of course, without having seen the figures—that the number is so large as to make it a very serious or difficult question, and I recall with the greatest pleasure the conciliatory speech made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin in the debate which took place at the beginning of the session, when he clearly indicated that he and his friends would be no parties to standing in the way of the fulfilment of the promises made that these tenants should be restored to their homes. But there is another matter about which I feel the greatest possible anxiety, namely, the delay which is occurring in the presentation of the Report of the Dudley Commission. The disturbances, such as they were, have been greatly exaggerated, and in the

West of Ireland are entirely due to the delay in the issue of that Report. I am not to be taken as blaming Lord Dudley or anyone connected with the Report, but I would urge the Government to expedite the work of that Commission in order that they may be able to found next year legislation upon that Report. There is at present before the House a Bill introduced by the Irish Party, dealing with the amendment of the Land Act of 1903. The Second Reading was supported by the Government, and was passed through that stage by a large majority and sent to one of the Standing Committees. But we recognise that it is impossible for us in the remaining portion of the session to turn that Bill into an Act of Parliament, and I regret that the Prime Minister did not include an expression of hope which would have given us confidence to the effect that he hoped next year to legislate on the lines of the Irish Land Bill now before the House and on the lines of the Dudley Report, which so far as one can gather will be a unanimous Report recommending a sweeping amendment of the Land Act of 1903. Those are the only remarks I have to make. I regret extremely that we had not had a more satisfactory attitude from the right hon. Gentleman in regard to Irish affairs. But at the same time I recognise that in these matters, friendly as this Parliament and this Government are to Ireland, we shall have to rely in the long run, as we have done for the last twenty years, on ourselves alone.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) said the Labour Party regretted very much that the Prime Minister had not seen his way to give them the pleasure of an autumn session. They had come to Parliament to do work; they had appealed to their constituents to be allowed to do work; and they desired to sit through the autumn in order to fulfil their pledges. The Prime Minister must have been painfully aware that even the programme, the exalted programme, which he had set down would take him up to the end of October to carry out if the House was to have any chance of considering the proposals of the Bills that had still to be introduced and of those which had been introduced but had hardly passed beyond the introductory stage. There were two matters in which they were very much interested, as to one of which he put down a question for that afternoon which was postponed on the understanding that the information would be given in the right hon. Gentleman's statement. He wished to know what was going to happen to the Scottish Education (Provision of Meals) Bill. The Prime Minister must be aware that the Secretary for Scotland in the Committee upstairs gave a distinct pledge that the Bill for which he was responsible was going to be proceeded with, and that it was therefore unnecessary to go on with the Bill for which he (Mr. Macdonald) was responsible. Because of that pledge he (Mr. Macdonald) had accepted a certain course upstairs. He wished to know now what the Government proposed to do with regard to the Bill, because the right hon. Gentleman had not referred to it in the statement he had just made. The other Bill in which they were interested was the Miners Eight Hours Bill. He could hardly believe that the Liberal Government would wait for the Report of a Commission to find out what the opinion of the trade was on an eight hours day, or the economic effect of an eight hours day. Seventy-five per cent. of the supporters of the right hon. Gentleman had committed themselves to a miners' eight hours day. An Eight Hours Bill was mentioned in the King's Speech. The House had given the Bill a Second Reading time after time, and if the Bill introduced this year was loosely drafted, the explanation was simple. It was that the Government had given the most effective pledge it could give, that they had considered the whole of the question and were prepared to produce a Bill of their own. So far as the Commission to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred was concerned, there were different opinions as to the value of its Report. There were many who were under the impression that the expenditure of £20 would have produced as good a Report as this which would cost some thousands. But however that might be, the position was clear. They had been told at the beginning of the session that this Bill was going to be introduced; that the whole details had been considered; and in the King's Speech they were certainly given to understand that the Government was going to do its best to push the Bill forward. The position now was that the Government was going to introduce a Bill which was to be subject to the criticism of the House, and that, having drawn that criticism, they were going to withdraw the Bill to introduce it possibly next year. There were two parties in the House who did not agree on the subject—the Miners' Federation, which demanded a Bill on the lines introduced by the Labour Party this year, and another section which declared that an Eight Hours Act would not meet its industrial conditions. No argument or criticism would eliminate the difference between those parties. The Government had either to force a Bill through the House with its large majority, or to declare that it did not intend to do anything at all. The Miners' Eight Hours Bill and the Scottish Education (Provision of Meals) Bill might well be put down for an autumn session, and then those who were prepared to work could come and work, and those who were not or could not must take the responsibility of being absent. He admitted that the officials might find it awkward to do their work in their Departments, but as the right hon. Gentleman had stated that he was now content with the state of business, was it not possible, if that was so in 1907, he might come to the House again in June, 1908, after an autumn session, and express content with the state of business then? The fact of the matter was that the business in which the Labour Party was concerned was in such a bad state owing to the business passed by previous Governments that it must be pressed on, and if they could not face an autumn session in a new Parliament they would not be able to do so later on. Then there was the Housing Bill. If that Bill was ready, why did not the Government introduce it, late though it was? He hoped it was not too late to urge the Prime Minister to bring them together for an autumn session to attend to these matters.

Sir ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorganshire, E.) said he hoped the Government, who were not going to have an autumn session—although he would be very glad to sit in the autumn either this year or next—would not forget the great questions in which Wales was interested.

Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald.

TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 5:—

*Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved an Amendment providing for the enlistment of certain units in the Territorial Force who should be liable for service outside the United Kingdom, with the idea that the new Territorial Force should be given an opportunity to afford help in times of need to the Regular forces when the First-class Reserve had been called out. He proposed by the Amendment to enable the Army Council, working hand-in-hand with the county associations, to earmark certain units of the Territorial Force, which should be composed exclusively of men who had undertaken the liability to serve abroad at times of grave national emergency. There was nothing in the Amendment which should prevent men from going over to the foreign service from the Home service units in time of war or peace. That would be a great help to the Regular Forces when war broke out. It had three distinct advantages over the plan of the right hon. Gentleman. First, it enabled the nation through the Army Council to know exactly what number of men the country would be able to rely on in time of need. Secondly, it obviated the objectionable practice which obtained in the Militia of asking men to volunteer for the front in circumstances where they could not refuse without the risk of being called cowards. Thirdly, the territorial recruit would know exactly what his engagement was. Under the Bill, he would be engaged for Home service, and when a war broke out he would be asked to volunteer for foreign service. It was not necessary to press upon the Committee the necessity of preparation during peace for what might happen in time of war. He protested against the opinion which prevailed both inside and outside the House that they could organise within a short time forces which could repel an invasion or raid. The hon. Member for Stoke on the 11th April last said—

> "He did not think there would be any difficulty in getting men for the Territorial Army. If an official paragraph appeared in the evening papers announcing that a hostile force had landed on our shores a million bayonets would be gleaming in the morning sun, and if the Secretary for War could not provide the bayonets, he would soon find himself swinging from the nearest lamp post."

He hardly thought that the sacrifice of the Secretary of State at the nearest lamp post, would propitiate the gods so that this million of men, without discipline, without organisation, without officers, would be able to resist a well-organised and well-drilled foreign force. Therefore, he protested most strongly against the idea which prevailed that an organised force could be improvised at any time. The whole history of war was against that idea. There was not a single instance in which raw levies had successfully stood against veteran troops. It might be said that the French troops, at the end of the 18th century, were marvellously effective against the disciplined and veteran troops of Austria; but there was in their favour the special circumstances of their enthusiasm for Republican principles. He did not think that it would be denied that in all probability the function of the land force, whether Regular or Territorial, in the future as in the past, would be that of an oversea service. This country had not been invaded for hundreds of years, and he hoped it would so continue, which would be as long as the Navy remained what it was. Therefore the force to supplement our Regular force would be a supplementary oversea Force, and, above all things, it should be a voluntary one. He could not imagine in any circumstances this country allowing conscription for oversea service. Conscription on the Continent was for home defence, though it might be that the best way to defend the home land was to carry the war on to the enemy's soil. The best defence was sometimes the offensive. There were two instances in recent years in which conscript soldiers had been sent abroad, and each was a lamentable failure. He referred to the French in Madagascar, where the conscript Army had no organised military opposition to meet, where they lost thousands of men, and the cost to France amounted to millions of pounds. The other instance was that of Italy in Abyssinia, where they met a martial race, and the disasters which overtook a friendly nation in the Abyssinian campaign were deeply regretted. Germany had profited by those two lessons, for she did not send conscripts to West Africa, but called for Volunteers from among her Army, and these men, on the whole, had done extremely well, and, in spite of great difficulties, had carried the campaign to a successful conclusion. Therefore, as we should never consent to conscription for oversea service, he hoped the Committee would consent to give favourable consideration to this proposal, as it would undoubtedly enable volunteer over-sea units to be organised to supplement the Regular Forces. It could not be said that the Regular forces were too large. Were they too large for the war in South Africa? No. They all knew at what great expenditure units had to be hastily organised, and not always on a satisfactory basis. The right hon. Gentleman had reduced the Regular Army by 400 officers and 40,000 men; there was all the more reason, therefore, for strengthening the Territorial Army for oversea service. Then organisation was necessary for sending the Territorial Force abroad in its units, and also for taking the men of the Home Service who volunteered to go out in the battalions earmarked for foreign service. He imagined that the Home Service units would take the place of the Regular troops who were sent to the front in our naval stations, our garrison towns, and wherever there were barracks. The foreign service units would go, he imagined, to our stations abroad, such as Gibraltar, or they would go to such places as Aldershot and Curragh, where they would receive a thorough drilling and grounding, and be forwarded to the front as soon as they were fit. The right hon. Gentleman could not say that it was not necessary to have such units to go oversea, for this reason: He had abolished the Militia; that force had been done away with never to return. What was he going to do in the case of such a war as that in South Africa? The Militia were most necessary in that war to look after the lines of communication. What units had the right hon. Gentleman got to take the place of the Militia if he did not adopt such a plan as was suggested by the Amendment? The right hon. Gentleman could not say: "We have got these third battalions." Those battalions would have enough to do to drill the recruits for the Regular Army, and they could not be in two places at once. The right hon. Gentleman had said in an airy manner that the third battalions would throw off other battalions; but it would not be quite so easy for them to do that as for the Secretary for War to make a speech. They would be fully occupied in training recruits for the Regular Army. If they turned back to the debates of 1904 they would see that on both sides of the House it was generally put forward that it was desirable that Volunteers should in future take a more active part when war was going on, and supplement the Regular Army in the field. On the 3rd April, 1905, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said—

> "What we shall have to do if we are ever engaged in a great war is to rely on our Navy, and our Regular Army, as prepared in time of peace, to give us security at the outset, and then, to give ourselves staying power, to manufacture soldiers as the war goes on. I believe that is what Japan has been doing with conspicuous success. How are we to get these large numbers in time of war, and as quickly as possible? We can only get them out of the Volunteers. The Volunteers, I think, must be made to feel that their system is a real system of national training, by means of which, if this country is ever attacked in a great war, either at home or abroad, the nation will be able to use all its resources and united energies for the defence of any part of the Empire."

He cordially agreed with the sentiments there expressed by the right hon. Gentleman, who put clearly the attitude which they ought to take up with regard to this matter. The Bill expressly enlisted men in the Territorial Force for service at home, and clearly, on the terms of the enlistment, the force enlisted for service at home could not go to support the Regular Force abroad in time of war, as they would wish them to do. The proposal had often been made to earmark the Yeomanry and Militia for foreign service. In July of last year the Secretary for War stated that there were proposals to make the Yeomanry liable to serve abroad in time of war. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon included in this proposals, in 1904, that the Militia should be made liable for foreign service; and last year the present Secretary for War said that such a proposal would be introduced. He had made good the ground that there was no difference of opinion, broadly speaking, that the Yeomanry and Militia should be made liable for foreign service in their units. Then as to the Volunteers. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had told them last Wednesday how the Volunteers were raised in 1859. They were raised entirely for home defence and with the idea of resisting invasion. They had no idea of going abroad. But as time went on, they became more disciplined and efficient, and, as was shown in the South African War, they did excellent service, and contributed largely to the successful conclusion of that campaign. It was now obsolete to say that the Volunteers were entirely intended to resist invasion. They saw that in the South African War. There were certain Volunteers, the younger and unmarried men, with no ties, who were anxious to serve their country in time of need. Let them for a moment consider the number of Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, who could be drawn upon for the foreign-service units. Last year there were 245,000 Volunteers on the rolls. A very large proportion of that total would not and could not be available for the foreign-service units. There were 69,000 of them under twenty years of age, who could not therefore be sent abroad, and at least 6,000 would have to be counted as being over forty-five years of age. Consequently, 75,000 of the full totals were ruled out on account of age. Then they had to take into consideration the number who would be medically unfit. In the year 1904, when 180,000 Volunteers were examined, no less than 29,000 were found to be medically unfit for active service, and it was estimated that if the whole force had been examined 40,000 would have been found unfit. Many of these would be ruled out by age also, but there must be 25,000 unfit on medical grounds alone, which made altogether about 100,000 who could not be relied upon to form any part of the foreign-service units. A great number of Volunteers were employed in dockyards, shipyards, upon railways, and in the Government service, and, consequently, they could not be spared to go abroad. There was also a large number who would not want to go abroad. Therefore, they would have to add another 25,000, which would make 125,000 who could not be relied upon for active service. Of the remaining 120,000 those married and those who could not leave their business must be deducted, say 60,000, which left about 60,000 to join the foreign-service units. With regard to the Yeomanry, they numbered 26,000 effectives who were very efficient, and possessed good physique, and out of those they would probably get 20,000 for foreign service. That would bring the total up to 80,000. There were 93,000 Militia; 20,000 of that total were under twenty years of age, and another 23,000 must be set down as medically unfit. That would give them 50,000 Militia, and if they added that number to the 80,000 he had already mentioned they would get 130,000 men available for the foreign-service units, or rather more than one-third of the Territorial Army. They enlisted a man in the Militia for home service, and when war broke out they invited him to go to the front under circumstances under which no man could refuse. That man might be a married man or have a business to look after, and when he enlisted, if he had desired to go to the front, he would have joined the Regular Army. In that way a large number of men were forced to go abroad on active service who had not intended to go when they enlisted. Under the plan he was suggesting the liability for foreign service would be strictly laid down. The man who joined for active service would know exactly what he had enlisted for, and the man who joined the Territorial Army would know that he was not expected to go outside the United Kingdom, although he would be permitted to volunteer for foreign service. With regard to the question of six months embodiment if war broke out, he would like to ask the Secretary of State for War for what purpose this embodiment was to take place in time of war. Surely it could not be to resist invasion, because he could not imagine the right hon. Gentleman would have left his serious training of the men until war broke out if there was any danger of invasion. He was strengthened in that opinion by some words which fell from the Leader of the Opposition a short time ago. The right hon. Gentleman, speaking as Prime Minister and Chairman of the Committee of Imperial Defence, said that a serious invasion of these islands was not an eventuality which they needed seriously to consider.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that that interpretation of his speech had been made upon several occasions, and it was somewhat misleading. What he maintained in the speech to which his hon. friend had referred was that with the defensive force they then had at home added to the Fleet they need not fear serious invasion; but the Home Defence Forces were an absolutely indispensable element of national security. He did not wish to be misinterpreted, but if the hon. Member would look more carefully at the quotation he would see that his interpretation was not a correct one.

*MR. ASHLEY said he would be very sorry to misrepresent the right hon. Gentleman. At any rate, the Secretary of State for War must believe that there was no danger of a serious invasion, or he would not have put off the training of the Territorial Army until war broke out, but would have trained the men in time of peace. If the Navy was defeated it did not matter much what troops we had here, because they would be starved out. Was it for the purpose of training troops for oversea service that the right hon. Gentleman had started the idea of the six months' embodiment? If so, why did he stipulate that these men were only to be enlisted for home service; it would be much fairer to tell the recruit that he might be asked to volunteer for service outside the United Kingdom. It might be said that they would not be able to get sufficient men to accept the obligation, and that the men would object because they could not afford to lose their situations. Surely if war broke out the men would run the same risk by being mobilised for six months. He could not see that it made any difference to a man's losing his job whether he was training at home or fighting at the front. Consequently his proposal did not place the men in any worse position in regard to getting employment after his service was over than he would be under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. He thought the Committee ought seriously to consider the oversea volunteer force which was dimly outlined in the Bill.

There was a great danger that the framework of the Bill might eventually be used for the purpose of conscription, because that could be accomplished simply by applying a Bill of one clause. They were this scheme dividing the men up into two classes—the men who were so circumstanced that they could go abroad to fight, the others who could only serve at home. There must always be two classes of men in the Volunteers, namely, the young men who were full of spirit, who wished to see life, and had no ties and encumbrances, and the men who from age or ties of business or marraige could only undertake more limited service. Why should they prevent the nation having the services of those young and active men? He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 19, after the word 'consisting,' to insert the words 'of such units as hereinafter provided, of which units a number to be specified by the Army Council shall be composed of men liable for service in places outside the United Kingdom when the First Class of the Army Reserve is called out, and.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said that on this Amendment almost any question could theoretically be raised. The Committee could hardly desire to go over again the ground which had been travelled on the Second Reading debate. He thought the hon. Member who moved the Amendment was disposed to pay insufficient attention to the essence of the proposition this scheme made. The expeditionary force, which, so far as the infantry were concerned, consisted of six divisions of three brigades each—that was to say, of seventy-two battalions in all, sixty-six of the Line and six of the Guards—would, assuming these proposals were carried out, be a much larger force than any force of the kind we had ever before had available. That was to say, it would be capable of being mobilised and sent abroad on a scale and with a facility that had not existed before. Of course, for the purpose of an argument, he was assuming that the scheme was successfully carried out. If that was so, the bulk of the substratum on which the hon. Member had rested his argument disappeared. He agreed with the hon. Member that it was much more likely that we should want men to fight abroad than at home. The Government hoped and believed that it was a remote contingency that they would all be sent away at once, but there would be available a greater number of units than had ever been available before. The sixty-six battalions of Line infantry did not exhaust what they had at their disposal. There were six more available for lines of communication and for extra units. Then there was what they would have out of the Irish Militia battalions, and what they could get out of the third battalions. He would not go into that. If the proposals of the Government were carried into effect, there would be a force for service over-sea so large that it was not really necessary or desirable to contemplate going further. It was a force of a size which had not even been proposed up to the present time, much less formed.

MR. ASHLEY: Why, then, was Clause 12 put in if it is not proposed to send any of these Territorials abroad?

*MR. HALDANE said that Clause 12 was put in to define the utmost limit to which they could go in dealing with a force which was essentially for home defence. He thought the remark of the Leader of the Opposition was perfectly consistent in this matter. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that they might have raids, although not on a large scale. Those raids required that they should have a home force, and that it should be sufficient to give the necessary security. They must not deduct from it under ordinary circumstances, to a large extent, and consequently they had put under Clause 12 all that they could. If they had taken any other course they would really have been setting up a third line instead of adhering to two, which was the very basis of the Government plan of reorganisation. The hon. Member had said it would be a risky thing to leave matters until the outbreak of war before beginning seriously to consider the training of the second line force. The purpose of the Government was to give a much more complete organisation and a much better chance of training to this home defence force than the present home defence force possessed.

The six months training, it was quite true, was of the very essence of the proposal for raising the standard of efficiency of those units. While that was so nobody contemplated that it was in the least probable that the whole of the expeditionary force would have to leave these shores at the same time. In the ordinary course of things, they would go out gradually, and meanwhile the units which remained would be available for garrison defence and coast defence. There was no magic about the period of six months. It was named in order to get the units into something like a satisfactory condition. That was the best they could do. They could never get out of a Volunteer force raised on this basis as good a force as if the men were entirely Regulars, or were put through two years training by some other method. What they believed was that they would get something better than they had at the present time, and a force which would be adequate for home defence. That was all they wanted. In the view of the Government the Amendment went far beyond the limits of their proposition, and laid down something which was quite inconsistent with it. For that reason he was unable to accept the Amendment.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said he believed it would be much better to have no limit to the expansion of our forces who would serve abroad The Secretary for War believed that men would come forward patriotically in case of necessity and offer their services. That was not a very satisfactory basis on which to make up the forces of the country. The Government ought not to be in the position of saying to a member of the Territorial Force, "Are you willing to leave this country and serve abroad, although when you joined the Territorial Force you were told that probably you would not be asked to serve abroad." If the soldier were a member of a unit and a great majority of that unit desired to serve abroad he would perhaps against his own inclination be forced to go abroad with his comrades. With regard to the question of raids, the Territorial Force of 300,000 men would hardly be required to deal with a raid in which probably not more than 10,000 men would take part. The Government should have the power of obtaining such expansion as was embodied in the Amendment. He would not go so far as to specify units, but when a man joined the Territorial Force it should be possible for him to say whether he would serve abroad if necessary.

*MR. MCCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said the noble Lord the Member for Maidstone had referred to the absurdity of having a force of 300,000 to repel raids of 10,000. If that duty was the only one which the Territorial Army might discharge, the noble Lord's objection would be valid, but to his mind the Territorial Army, although essentially raised for home defence as its primary object, had always been understood to be a force to provide in time of stress the means of expansion for the first line. He would meet that objection by stating that if the latter duty was to be carried out as he thought it ought to be, it should be done on a voluntary basis having regard to the special circumstances of the case. That was where he entirely disagreed with the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. The hon. Member asked the men to come forward and give an undertaking to serve in any part of the world, without considering the merits of the special war on hand. The Amendment also went to the very root of the scheme of the Secretary for War, which he had always supported strenuously because it was in principle a two-line Army, whereas the plan of the hon. Member's Amendment would make it a three-line Army. He was sure that the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield would agree that if there was one thing which the Volunteers were opposed to more than another, it was the proposal of the late Secretary of State for War that there should be two classes of Volunteers. The Volunteers opposed that tooth and nail, irrespective of Party. The proposal of the Amendment that the Volunteers were to serve abroad was a frontal attack to secure that which the proposal of the late Secretary of State for War tried to bring about by devious flank movements—such as by medical examination in the notorious circulars. It was not that the Volunteers objected to medical examination in itself; it was that they were to be subjected to a more stringent medical examination that the men of the Line. The hon. Member, in moving his Amendment, had given the Committee a rehash of the figures which the right hon. Member for Croydon had stated in one of his letters to *The Times.* They all regretted the absence of the right hon. Gentleman, who, however much they differed from him, thoroughly understood the question from his own point of view. Those figures were wholly fallacious. They were based on examination of the men in camp; but every commanding officer knew that a large proportion of the men in camp were young fellows, and, moreover, many were cast aside not because their physical standard was weak but because of bad teeth. Every one of the men so cast aside was quite physically capable of undergoing any strain in the field. He had urged on successive Secretaries for War that the Territorial Army—or call it what they liked—should be a purely volunteer Army. He believed that the right hon. Gentleman must depend on the Volunteers and Yeomanry trained as highly as possible for his second line for home defence; and that the Militia should go into the first line. Whenever this country was engaged in a war of which the people approved there would be no difficulty in obtaining Volunteers for service abroad to go to the front. By the scheme of the Secretary for War he would be able to have 300,000 men properly trained for the Territorial Army. Under the new conditions the great majority of the Auxiliary Forces would have every year fifteen days camp training, and with a little additional training they would be in a very efficient state to undertake service abroad. A great deal had been said about six months training after mobilisation, and hon. Gentlemen opposite had spoken as if the men were to have no preliminary training. He maintained that with that six months training in addition to their preliminary training they would be quite ready to go to the front. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had stated that there was a dearth of Volunteers ready to go to South Africa. That was not the case. Difficulties were placed in the way not only of units but of companies volunteering to go to the front. He spoke for the Lothians of Scotland, and he knew that out of 3,000 men only twenty men were allowed to volunteer, whereas the right hon. Gentleman said that only twenty had volunteered, which was a very different thing. If there was a war of which the country approved there would be no difficulty in getting Volunteers to go on active service abroad.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he had considerable sympathy with the Amendment so ably moved by the hon. Member for Blackpool; but he did not think the hon. Member had considered sufficiently the different conditions or service of the various branches of the Auxiliary forces. He did not think the hon. Member was right in mixing up the Volunteers, Yeomanry and Militia, all of whom were on different bases. Nor did he agree with the hon. Gentleman that the Volunteers should be put in two classes. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh, who had had considerable experience with Volunteers, knew how unpopular such a plan as that would be. The Volunteers existed wholly and solely for home defence, and it would be very unwise to depart from that principle. Volunteers consisted in large measure of men in good civil employment, and there would be very great objection on the part of parents and guardians to their sons and wards, when they presented themselves for enrollment, being asked if they would volunteer for service abroad if desired. As to the physical condition of the Volunteers referred to by the hon. Member for Blackpool, at the time of the South African War when the Regular troops were medically examined 30 per cent. were found unfit for service abroad; and they did not find that there was a larger percentage of Volunteers unfit. He had always thought it most improper on the part of the late Secretary for War to endeavour to force on the Volunteer force medical examination. As a matter of fact many regiments were not so examined. The clear facts of the case as to physical fitness had never been clearly ascertained, and the circular was unconditionally withdrawn. It was in the highest degree desirable that the general staff should know accurately beforehand the number of men they could rely upon for service over-sea, but that could not be done in this country where there was nothing but Volunteer service; and even in France and Germany, where there was conscription, the general staff could not at all times tell how many men they could command for over-sea service. Only the other day in Germany, when men were asked for for the campaign in South-West Africa, that was found to be the case, and that opened the eyes of the German officers to the difficulties of a tropical campaign.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said the right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that by raising the principle of organising on two lines of defence he disposed of the Amendment. Anyone who had listened to the debate would see that they were discussing the matter in somewhat of a fog, because there were two underlying unrealities. In the first place, the right hon. Gentleman did not rely on his two lines—his rule was going to have exceptions and pretty large ones. The right hon. Gentleman had previously assured them that he would welcome the whole Militia regiments. The talk of two lines represented a principle in his mind and a great truth, but he did not want certain people to state whether they would fight abroad until the war came, and those people were those whom they used to call Volunteers and who would remain Volunteers. The second unreality was to state that the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers were one and the same people when they were not. They were drawn from persons pursuing totally different vocations. They took up the service with different objects, and some were prepared to undertake liability for foreign service while others were not. If these were the true facts of the situation why should not the military authorities take account of them and have their list of Yeomanry or Militia who were going to take foreign service distinct from those who were not.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) wished to point out to the Secretary of State for War that we had more than 160,000 Regulars engaged in the late war in South Africa, and we should probably require in a future war very many more than 160,000 men. If he had men whom he could not order to proceed to the theatre of war, it very much diminished their value as soldiers. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh found fault with the Amendment because, he said, a man would not go to the war unless he approved of its merits. It was a most dangerous thing to say that a soldier need only go to the theatre of war if he approved of the object of the war. How could the Government hope to carry on military administration if every individual member of the Forces was to have his own right of veto?

*MR. McCRAE: My words applied only to the Volunteers and not to the Imperial forces.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said the Territorial Army were members of His Majesty's Forces and if they were to have a right of veto military organisation would be reduced to the greatest chaos ever seen in any army in the world. He did not object to the Amendment because it divided the Volunteers into two classes, those who were willing and those who were unwilling to go to the war. There might be a great number of reasons to prevent a man from going to the front; he might decline to go, not because he was not a brave and patriotic man, but through other circumstances. He objected, however, to considering the susceptibilities of the men to the extent that they should be able to say that because they were unable to go none of the other men should go. That was pushing attention to the susceptibilities of these people a great deal too far, and he said the Volunteers would push too far, if after having been enlisted for service at home, they tried to prevent other men from serving their country abroad. He had put down the Amendment in a somewhat different form, namely, that the first territorial battalion should be raised and trained like the present Militia battalion with a view to its serving abroad in time of war. He had spoken the other day of the unfair choice which would be put before men when they were already in a regiment, if they were told to fall out, or take two steps to the front, if they were unwilling to serve abroad. That was a choice which it was most unfair to put upon men, and there were few who would have the courage to fall out under the circumstances. It would be better to put fairly and squarely to each man upon enlistment the question of whether he enlisted with the possibility of being ordered abroad, or whether he enlisted for home service only. It savoured somewhat of trickery to enlist men into a regiment for home service, and then, after they had got them in that home service regiment, to ask them to take two steps to the rear and fall out of the ranks if they would not volunteer for foreign service. At the time the Militia reserve existed men were called up and asked if they would take the obligation of serving abroad for an extra bounty of a pound a year and they found that all those men who were eligible willingly undertook that liability with a light heart and with little expectation that they would be called upon for service. In his experience, liability for foreign service weighed very little with the men, and he thought that if the matter was explained to them at the time of enlistment the Government would still be able to get a force which would be available for service in time of war.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said he could quite sympathise with the position taken up by the hon. Member for Central Sheffield, but it was impossible for the Secretary for War to take up the position that this was a purely voluntary organisation if, at the outbreak of war, he could embody the whole of the Territorial Army. The right hon. Gentleman had therefore admitted the reasonableness of the Amendment. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that he did not need the men, but he would need the Territorial Army for the purpose of expansion in time of war. Then why should he object to a certain number of the men agreeing to become liable for foreign service in case of war? If war broke out the right hon. Gentleman would come to Parliament and demand the right to embody the whole of these men, and once embodiment was granted, every influence, Parliamentary and national, would be brought to bear upon them to make them go abroad. Why, then, should the Secretary for War object to their agreeing now to go abroad, and to go as units? The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Militia might go as units in time of war, and why should they make a difference between that force and the Yeomanry and Volunteers? The Militia and Yeomanry were going to have less training than they had had in the past; under the new conditions they would not be such well-trained forces as under the old system. Under these circumstances he found himself considerably embarrassed. He was not sure that the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield was right, but at the same time he could not understand its being opposed by the Secretary of State as a matter of principle. The principle was raised by the late Secretary of State, and a good many Members then opposed it and threw doubts upon it—himself, among others. But the doubts thrown on the proposal of the late Secretary of State could not properly be thrown on the same proposal now, because the whole conditions were different. He did not know that he would object to the opposition of the Secretary of State if he could understand exactly the grounds for that opposition. But the right hon. Gentleman simply said he did not need the men. If he did not get his special contingents, might he not need them? If his special contingents were not successful would not the right hon. Gentleman like to have a considerable number of men who had agreed to go abroad in time of war, no matter where? He asked the right hon. Gentleman to make quite clear the reason for his opposition in order that he might come to a decision as to which way to vote.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 77; Noes, 280. (Division List No. 195).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester
Berkett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kimber, Sir Henry

Viscount Morpeth.

King,SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.CharlesW. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Parker,SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson,JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott,Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheffield,SirBerkeleyGeorgeD.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Viscount Morpeth.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland(Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry,RedmondJ.(Tyrone,N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(Tow'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W, B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leign)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett,C H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne,Major EMartin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.

M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

THE CHAIRMAN ruled out of order Amendments standing in the names of the hon. Member for Ludlow and of the noble Lord the Member for South Birmingham.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said his Amendment applied to the Territorial Army and the use of the ballot.

THE CHAIRMAN said the clause applied to the number of the force, and the Amendment arose on another clause.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said his point was that the number of the Territorial Force depended on the application of the ballot to the Territorial Force.

THE CHAIRMAN said he knew that, but this was a different clause dealing with the number of the force. The Amendment in the name of the hon. and gallant gentleman the Member for Sheffield was also out of order. It was not in its right place.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) asked when he should be able to move the Amendment if it was not in its right place.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was afraid that the hon. and gallant Gentleman should have moved it on Clause 2 as regarded part of the question with which it dealt, or it should be moved on Clause 6.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he had not an opportunity of moving it on the previous occasion owing to the application of the closure.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was perfectly aware of that, but it did not affect the point of order.

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 259; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 196.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, W. (Tow'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir. H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)

Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, Major E. Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George

Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n)
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.

Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vivian, Henry
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F W. F. (Bury St. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jowett, F. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macpherson, J. T.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Seddon, J.
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.
Willoughby de Eresby Lord
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Castlereagh and Mr. Fell.

Clause 6:

MR. WYNDHAM moved an Amendment to insert in the first sub-section of the clause words providing, first, that when 0 per cent. of all ranks serving in any pat of the Territorial Force accept before abodiment either or both of the liabilitieset out in Clause 12 (*a* and *b*) (area oervice of Territorial Force), that part all, in respect of government, disciplineid pay, be under the orders of the gral officer commanding the district ich they are trained. Under Clause he right hon. Gentleman invited ar temtemplated offers from parts of the men of the Territorial Force to subject themselves to the liability—

"(*a*) To serve in any place outside the United Kingdom, or (*b*) to be called out for actual service for purposes of defence at such places in the United Kingdom as may be specified in their agreement, whether the Territorial Force is embodied or not."

The Secretary of State for War contemplated in the Bill and in his speeches certain exceptions from what he had called the organisation upon two lines. He was not seeking to traverse or undermine that organisation. He thought it was a mistake, but the right hon. Gentleman was having his own way. Taking the position as it stood there were to be some exceptions. Section 11 made provision to enable men in the Territorial Force to enlist in the Special Reserve, but he did not think it was contemplated that the Volunteers should enlist in the Special Reserve. What was contemplated was that those who were now serving in the Militia, should, in certain cases, undertake this obligation, which was tantamount to the Militia undertaking an obligation for over-sea service. He put a Question the other day as to whether it would be possible for some 200 or 300 men and half their officers to enlist in a body in the Special Reserve. The right hon. Gentleman replied that that would not be impossible, in fact he said he would welcome it. It was, therefore, clear from the Bill as it stood that a whole battalion of Militia could come out of the second line and occupy the same position as the Militia now occupied, which he would call that of a support to the first line. That exception to the rule did not end with the Militia. The right hon. Gentleman was expecting that the Yeomanry cavalry would provide a certain proportion of men to act with the Regulars before the embodiment contemplated in the Bill. Again, the right hon. Gentleman was contemplating and even asking for a considerable draft from the second line. It was also contemplated that the Volunteer artillery would man the fortresses in such places as the Mersey. He contended that all the men embraced in those exceptions ought to be under the command of the general officer commanding the district in which they were trained. They would have confusion worse confounded if the men who were exceptions from the rule, who were really an integral part of the first line, were not in the future placed under the command of the man who was responsible for mobilising the first line. There were to be executive and administrative generals. He contended that the plan must break down unless those who subjected themselves to this liability were under the executive command and administrative control of the general officer in command of the district in which they were trained. Men could not be trained and inspected by one set of officers, and then suddenly, when the crisis came, be transferred to the control of another set of officers. It was notorious, for instance, that different generals took different views of the art of manœuvring. It was important, therefore, from the military point of view, that the general to use the men should be the general who trained them. It was also essential, from the administrative point of view, that the horsing and provisioning of these men should be under the administration of those who were to conduct the warlike operations, and not under the administration of the County Associations.

He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, at the end, to insert the words, '(a) Provided that when fifty per cent. of all ranks serving in any part of the Territorial Force accept before embodiment either or both of the liabilities hereinafter enacted in section twelve (two) (a) and (b) that part shall in respect of government and discipline be under the orders of the general officer commanding the district in which it is trained, and' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. HALDANE said that under Clause 12 of the Bill to which this Amendment made reference any part of the Territorial Force might make an offer either to serve outside the United Kingdom or to be allotted for a particular place of defence in the United Kingdom, and, on such offer being accepted, they were liable to the extent of the offer. The right hon. Gentleman proposed that when 50 per cent. of all ranks serving in any part of the Territorial Force accepted the liabilities indicated in Clause 12, the whole of that body was to go over to the control of the general officer commanding the district in which it was trained. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he, the Secretary for War himself, made exceptions to keeping distinct the two lines—that there were units or groups of men who belonged in part to the one and in part to the other. He had said and must say that in order to get an analogy. The men with whom it was proposed to deal were to be in respect of government and discipline under the general officer commanding the district, and for other purposes to be part of the Territorial Second Line Force. Was there any analogy between that and anything else in the plan? He would take the Militia. He would be very glad to see a Militia unit going over into one of these training battalions, and the men enlisting in one of these training battalions, and the officers moving up into the first line, as it were. That might very well be, and then that Militia unit would belong to the Regular line. He would take the case of the Yeomanry Cavalry. The Yeomanry Cavalry were to furnish some fourteen squadrons, and those squadrons were to be under liability to serve abroad and to form divisional cavalry for the Regular expeditionary force. What was their position ? They were supernumerary to the regiments from which they came. They were not to fill two *rôles*. They, again, belonged for all purposes to the Regular Forces. Their engagement was one that took them over to the Regular side. The same thing occurred in the Artillery. As regarded the training brigades of the Artillery, the men who were trained there would not belong to the Territorial Force, but to the Regulars ; they would train for service with the Regular Artillery. Then there was the Army Service Corps. The War Office proposed to train a certain number of men supernumerarily to their own units of the Territorial Force, but they would take engagements to serve with the Regulars, and to the Regulars they would go. In other words, the principle throughout was not to have any men put down to fulfil two functions. One of the great curses of the existing organisation was that men were labelled for two functions. Under Clause 12 the Government only said that if a unit or man remaining in the Territorial Force engaged to serve abroad or for some particular purpose the Government would accept the engagement ; but the service should be rendered in the capacity of a part of the Territorial Force, which only in special circumstances went abroad. They were not taking part of the Territorial Force and assigning it to the first line. The Government proposed to keep to simplicity. The right hon. Gentleman's proposal would give a Territorial Force with a line of division running through it —part of it commanded and trained by one set of authorities and part of it commanded and trained by another. The Territorial Force would be broken up ; the second line would be cut into two parts, one part being put under one set of conditions and another under a different set of conditions. It was far simpler and plainer when they had a second line —when they had a Territorial Force— to stick to it and maintain a uniform training. There was no analogy between the part of the Territorial Force which took a special engagement under Clause 12 and the men of the Army Service Corps who volunteered supernumerarily to their own unit to go, on mobilisation, with the Regulars. It would be opposed to the whole principle of the Bill if he accepted the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment.

MR. WYNDHAM said that even now he did not understand what the right hon. Gentleman's plan was, and it was evident that the right hon. Gentleman did not understand the Amendment. They had heard for the first time that a portion of the Territorial Force was to be trained as supernumerary to the Regulars and put under totally new commanders. If he had been aware of that, his observations would have been more vehement on the Second Reading of the Bill. How were the supernumeraries to be taken away under Clause 12, or was there any other clause in the Bill by which they could be ?

MR. HALDANE : Under Part 3 of the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM asked if the Yeomanry were to have the power to take an obligation of over-sea service ? At any rate he was persuaded that that could not be carried out if it involved that they were to be trained in time of peace, and then in time of war be drafted to another establishment under different commanders. There were four squadrons in a regiment, but there was to be a supernumerary squadron of 110 men liable to over-sea service. But it would be quite impossible to train five squadrons of Yeomanry or a corps of artillery in time of peace and take one of them away in time of war. What he suggested was that the right hon. Gentleman should take men from the best regiments, and that that quota should belong in time of peace to the regiment to which they would belong in time of war.

MR. HALDANE said that the fallacy of the right hon. Member for Dover's scheme was that all those supernumeraries of which he spoke on the Second Reading would be enlisted under Part 3 of the Bill. When they were dealing with Clause 12 they were dealing with the Territorial Army.

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said that the proposal of the right hon. Member for Dover seemed to him to make confusion worse confounded. The point of the right hon. Gentleman was whether the anomaly should exist in time of peace or in time of war. The scheme of the right hon. Member for Dover was that it should exist in time of peace, whereas that of the Secretary for War was that it should exist in time of war. If he had to make the choice he would prefer that of the Secretary for War, for after all war was the exception, and peace the general rule. Moreover, however careful our preparation for war might be, a certain amount of confusion and improvisation must take place, and he personally would prefer that the organisation should work harmoniously in time of peace rather than in time of war. The right hon. Member for Dover had said that if a certain part of a regiment volunteered for service in time of war, then that part of the Territorial Army would be put under the control and command for the first time of other than their own officers. He did not know exactly what value the Secretary for War attached to these supernumerary troops. He thought the simplicity would be greater if the scheme could be got rid of altogether. The right hon. Gentleman evaded all the difficulties he had to encounter in regularising the Militia. It was very likely that in time of war whole units would transfer themselves bodily from the Territorial to the Regular Army. Why did not the right hon. Gentleman apply the same principle to the Yeomanry? If they trained the Yeomanry in five squadrons he did not know where they could get the men under the conditions that one squadron was to serve abroad as supernumeraries, and if they did get the men, that squadron would be likely to jeopardise the success of the regiment to which it was attached. If the right hon. Gentleman said fourteen squadrons would be required in time of war, let them earmark certain Yeomanry regiments in time of peace for the Regular Forces instead of only one squadron from each regiment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that there might be a distinction between the plan of the hon. Gentleman and that of the right hon. Member for Dover; but the hon. Member came far nearer to supporting that of the right hon. Member for Dover than that of the Secretary of State for War. If there was any part of the force, whether Volunteers or Regulars, that belonged to the so-called first line, they should be trained with the first line and with first line officers. Surely they might drop all discussion about first line and second line; the distinction was purely arbitrary. The right hon. Gentleman talked of the first line and the second with bridges between, but nobody was intended to go over the bridges, and that helped them in no way. In fact the right hon. Gentleman had found that with our complex state of society he could not manage his Regular Army without assistance from forces which were not Regular. And that showed that there was no real distinction between the first line and the second. He thought that the discussion might be much clearer if they were to abandon a terminology which was inappropriate to the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. They should recognise that they could not make it a better plan by calling it simple when it was not simple. If they insisted on two kinds of forces, Regulars and Volunteers, then they came across the very organisation of the right hon. Gentleman, who told them that they could not have an expeditionary force to leave our shores without getting some assistance from that portion of our forces called the second line. The only question was whether they should have that confusing perplexity, which was inherent in any system of voluntary service, in time of peace or in time of war. The hon. Member for Cardiff would, on reflection, see that his theory that confusion should arise rather in time of war than in time of peace would hardly work out satisfactorily. If simplicity was necessary it would, he thought, be better to suffer inconvenience in time of peace, and let the thing work smoothly in the more trying and important time of war.

MR. HALDANE said the right hon. Gentleman was going back to the old phrases, the Regular Army and the forces behind it, organised in three or four groups; but he challenged him to show any way in which an organisation could be made out of that which would be free from confusion. If they did that they would find themselves trying to label people for two functions. That was the very vice they had to meet. The Militia were labelled for drafts and at the same time for service as units, and the very essence of the present scheme was to get rid of that. And in order to get rid of that they had these supernumeraries and these bridges, to keep to the old phrase, over which the supernumeraries might come and become part of the Regular Army. The Government had made it perfectly clear in all their plans for using supernumeraries that they should come across the bridge and enlist under Part III. of the Bill, and become part of the Regular Army. If the right hon. Gentleman would look at Clause XI, he would see that it was provided that—

> "If a man of the Territorial Force enlists into the Army Reserve without being discharged from the Territorial Force, the terms and conditions of his service whilst he remains in the Army Reserve shall be those applicable to him as a man belonging to the Army Reserve, and not those applicable to him as a man of the Territorial Force."

In other words, if a man went across the bridge he crossed for all purposes. The way in which it was proposed to get the Yeomanry contingent which was to form a division of cavalry, was by troops, if possible, from each of the regiments, and this troop from each regiment would be supernumeraries to the establishment of the regiments.

Mr. GUEST: Is there a different term of service?

Mr. HALDANE: Oh, quite different.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Then you will have two classes in the same regiment?

Mr. HALDANE: Not in the same regiment. They were supernumeraries to the regiment; that was the whole point.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT asked whether the supernumeraries and the others would train together or would one class be, say, at Dover and the other at York.

Mr. HALDANE said that a good deal of their training would be separate from each other and some together. There was no difficulty of any kind about that. He had explained more than once that it was proposed to give a special training to these supernumeraries. They would be enlisted under Part III. of the Bill, they would be paid with the pay of the Regulars when they were out, and they would be in exactly the same position as the men in the third battalions of Militia, except that they would be trained as cavalry. Being enlisted under Part III. they would belong to the Regular side, and would have a special training to enable them to fulfil their functions. It would be very convenient to have these troops training during their annual training with the regiments from which they came. Surely there was all the difference in the world between supernumeraries enlisted under Part III. and belonging to the Regular side, and what the right hon. Gentleman opposite proposed to create. It was because they had in their minds the principle of getting rid of the old state of things under which one man was labelled for two functions that they objected to the plan of the right hon. Gentleman.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said that what would really happen would be that some commanding officers of Yeomanry would find an extra troop put in for the purposes of drill.

Mr. HALDANE said this arrangement was the result of a great deal of negotiation with the Yeomanry Commanders and the Director of Military Training, and in the opinion of experts it was the simplest system.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS said he did not understand the exact part these men would bear. It now appeared that the extra squadrons would be attached to the Yeomanry, but they would belong to the first line and not the second. As he understood the new second line brigades, they were to be organised in divisions for the command of which there were to be fourteen divisional generals. A general commanding one of these territorial brigades might be senior to the general commanding the coast defences in the part of the country to which the brigade was sent. He would probably know nothing about that part of the country, and would supersede the man who had made all the plans and knew all about the defences. He thought there would be great risk of confusion, and he hoped that, before the final distribution of the Territorial Army was decided, the right hon. Gentleman would take steps to avoid it.

VISCOUNT MORPETH said it seemed to him that under the right hon. Gentleman's system they would have part of the Regular Army serving under Auxiliary officers; and he had the gravest doubt whether the Regular officers who would have eventually to deal with these men would approve of such a system.

MR. ASHLEY pointed out that the Yeomanry recruit was to be taken not younger then eighteen, while any man could be enlisted under Part III. at seventeen, so that those enlisted for home service would have to be eighteen, while for foreign service men might be enlisted at seventeen.

MR. HALDANE said the enlistment at seventeen only applied to the infantry.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) thought the course of the debate was an argument in favour of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme for organising in two lines instead of three. So long as they confined themselves to that all was straightforward, but when once they came to the third line—the bridges—immense confusion was bound to arise. He doubted whether any of these bridges for the Auxiliary Forces would be found very workable; but it was not for him and the right hon. Gentleman opposite to complain of the confusion they would cause. The truth of the matter was that it was enormously difficult to get an Army of great size, which his right hon. friend thought he required, under any system. This confusion was inherent in any scheme under which they endeavoured to get men in the home force to serve under different circumstances. He believed the proposals now before the Committee was a little bit better than any scheme previously put forward, but he could not honestly say more than that. The changes were made necessary by the fact that they were trying to raise a larger foreign legion than any nation had ever been required to raise, excepting perhaps Japan; and to get a force such as the Opposition required would cost not less than £50,000,000 a year on their plan.

MR. WYNDHAM said that what would happen under this scheme was that a Yeomanry regiment would be asked to say whether it could find so many men in order to make up a squadron who would be first line special reservists and engaged under Clause 29. They would be quite distinct from those with whom they trained, but they would not be a separate body of men. In fact the scheme proposed to do with the Yeomanry what the Militia now complained of and the Volunteers refused to submit to.

MR. HALDANE said they were supernumeraries.

MR. WYNDHAM said that that phrase did not assist him. Did it help these men's comrades in the ranks? Did it help the leaders or the officers who had to deal with two separate sets of men on parade? They trained these men on lines for which they were directly responsible to the Military Director, and then when war came a certain number of men were taken away and rolled up with other forces, and put under another man with other ideas. Why should not the right hon. Gentleman, instead of taking a few men from several regiments, take any regiment which was ready to find a squadron and treat that as a first-line regiment, others remaining part of the second line?

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the right hon. Gentleman had not received very hearty support from the hon. and gallant Gentleman for the Abercromby Division, who had practically asked him to abandon his bridges, and appeared to have come to the conclusion that the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman was an extremely bad one, or at least, was very little better than the schemes which his predecessors had put before the House. He did not pretend to have any military knowledge, but the speech of his noble friend the Member for South Birmingham had filled him with considerable alarm, because it had not been answered in the least. The noble Lord had said that certain troops must be gathered together to assist the Regulars, "supernumeraries" he believed was the word technically used. Those troops might be commanded by a Volunteer officer, though there might be a Regular officer present. He had always understood that great difficulty would arise if a Volunteer officer were put above a Regular officer. No doubt the hon. Member for East Edinburgh would be perfectly capable of conducting any operations even better than a Regular officer; but all Volunteer officers were not like the hon. Member, and it seemed to him to open up a great vista of trouble if, when in face of the enemy, we might have a large number of our troops commanded by Volunteer officers when there were Regular officers present. He had been prepared to give a half-hearted support to the proposition of his right hon. friend because, differing from the hon. and gallant Gentleman below the gangway opposite, he was rather inclined to think that this scheme would lead to conscription. The point raised by the Amendment was one which should be cleared up.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he found it difficult to understand what objection there was to the Amendment of his right hon. friend. Since it was moved full light had been thrown on the subject, and he thought it was now quite clear that the training of the whole regiment of Yeomanry under the general officer in command, in case of war, seemed very much more desirable than to take a few individuals out of a Yeomanry regiment, who would thus stand apart from their comrades. If the whole regiment was taken under the general officer commanding the district, he could see no special objection to it, but if individual members of the regiment were to be taken, then anyone who had any experience of the Yeomanry or Volunteers would realise that there would be some element of chaos in the regiment or battalion. The men, when they came back from training under the general officer commanding the district, would be under the impression that they had a special knowledge which the others had not, and the officers who had been with them would have the same feeling. There would be a distinction between the two classes of persons in the various regiments and battalions. The Secretary of State said there was no difficulty in that. The right hon. Gentleman had never commanded a battalion. If he had, even for a short time, he would appreciate the difficulties of the case. His right hon. friend was very reasonable in suggesting that this should be done only where there were those willing to serve under special conditions, and the special contingent to form part of the first line should exceed 50 per cent. of any regiment or battalion. He did not think that any force or pressure should be used on the other 50 per cent. to act in the same way, but that, merely for the matter of training, the whole regiment should go under the general officer commanding the district. He would be the last to advocate the placing under the general officer commanding the district all the Territorial Force, because he believed that they should be under their own divisional generals, and that those divisional generals should take their instructions from a department of the War Office established for the purpose of dealing with the Territorial Army. It was impossible in every way to make for order, efficiency of training, and the maintenance of *esprit de corps* if all those things which they considered to be valuable in training the forces were to be interfered with. They on that side of the House desired to see the Territorial Army an efficient force, but the right hon. Gentleman still maintained his love for the complicated and confusing arrangement of weeding out a few men from the regiments of Yeomanry and infantry of the Territorial Army for special training under the general officer commanding the district, while the remainder of the regiment might be trained under other officers of cavalry or infantry whose ideas of training might be of a totally different character. The result of that would be to set up a state of confusion in the minds of the officers concerned. The suggestion of his right hon. friend would overcome that; it would simplify matters.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was repeating himself.

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 39; Noes, 224. (Division List No. 197.)

AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Coates, F. Feetham (Lewisham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Foster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W, Howell (Bristol, S,)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W,
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Harniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip

Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttal, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset E.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Vivian, Henry
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitely, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
William, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. WYNDHAM moved to insert the words "Provided the pay and allowance of any man of the Territorial Force have been calculated in proportion to the amount of duties which he performs, and that an extra allowance shall be paid in respect of each extra duty performed and each extra liability taken." He had no desire to traverse the theory of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme or to draw any invidious distinction between one man and another in the Territorial Force, but some of them would have to do a great deal of work which others would not have to do. He had in his mind the artillerymen and the cavalry force, who had to do with horses as well as themselves. The artilleryman and the cavalryman had to do before and after the field day work which represented about two and a half hours labour. Last week he knew an instance where a Yeomanry regiment marched out at 7.30, and received the order to "cease fire" at 3.30 in the afternoon. Consequently they were eight hours in the saddle and traversed from twenty-eight to thirty miles. Before they marched out they had to attend to their horses and feed them. After "cease fire" it took them two hours to get back to camp, and then they had again to feed and groom their horses and see to the saddlery. Often great and unnecessary expense was entailed if the attention to saddlery was scamped. To keep saddlery in a fit condition for training or service or to pass inspection meant hours of work after the strictly military training of the day had been brought to a conclusion. He thought those were practical facts which deserved the attention of the Government. A man in charge of a horse and Government stores ought to be paid for looking after that horse and keeping those stores in a thoroughly efficient and warlike condition.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 26, at the end, to insert the words, "Provided that the pay and allowances of any man of the Territorial Force shall be calculated in proportion to the amount of the duties which he performs, and that an extra allowance shall be paid in respect of each extra duty performed or extra liability undertaken."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HALDANE said he fully appreciated the amount of work the good soldier had to put in to do things efficiently. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover had drawn attention to what appeared to be small matters. He could assure him that while he thoroughly appreciated the value of the man who did his duty in those respects he could not see how they could work out such an Amendment as that now proposed. It was not only in the case of the cavalry and the artillery that there was a great deal of work to be doen. He thought the infantryman did more than the right hon. Gentleman seemed to think, because he was sometimes out all night, and he frequently had a great deal of hard work to do in the entrenchments. The life of an infantryman was becoming harder and harder, both with the Regular and with the Auxiliary Forces. It would be impossible to work out the principle of the Amendment, because there were no means of paying the men by results as there were in many occupations. While he appreciated the purpose and importance of the Amendment the difficulty was giving practical effect to it.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said he quite anticipated that the right hon. Gentleman would have indicated his anxiety to meet the views of the right hon. Member for Dover, and he realised the real necessity of doing something in the direction in which the Amendment pointed. He questioned whether the right hon. Gentleman really recognised what the extra work involved upon the cavalryman of the new Territorial Force would be. He himself had just come from a training where the conditions had been very peculiar, so peculiar that he heard many wishes expressed on all sides that the right hon. Gentleman had been there in order that he might see for himself the conditions under which the Yeomanry did their work. He was assured that if only the Secretary of State for War could have seen the conditions his heart would have considerably softened, and so far from reducing the pay he would have increased it. If the right hon. Gentleman could realise what it was to be in camp when the camp was ploughed up and mud was a foot deep, he would realise what it meant to keep himself, his horse, and saddlery in a clean condition, and would give a more favourable answer to the Amendment. Surely it was in the interests of the service that those who undertook this work voluntarily should be compensated for the extra amount of work they had to do. The day of a cavalry soldier of the Territorial Force was a long and hard one. He was not like the infantryman who when he came in merely had to go to his dinner or go to sleep. He had to clean and groom his horse, which took an hour and a half or two hours, and then he had to turn to and clean his saddlery and kit. That took the greater part of the day, and he would not be inaccurate if he said that the Yeoman or artilleryman had practically no time at all to himself during the time he was undergoing his annual training. Perhaps he had an hour between five and six and such time between seven and when he turned in. Surely the man who underwent this extra work should be paid accordingly. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would show more sympathy with the case of the Yeoman than he had hitherto done. Unless the Government were more sympathetic they would find the greatest possible difficulty in getting recruits for this particular branch of the service. The troops were recognising that a great deal more work was being thrown upon them and that they were not being in any way paid or compensated by the Government for it.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH, in supporting the Amendment, expressed the hope that the Yeomanry would receive a little more sympathy from the Government. The question of the difference between the cavalryman and the infantryman was of great importance. So long as they had to compete with the labour market for the purpose of recruiting for the Territorial Army, it was obvious the Government must be prepared to come forward and spend the money necessary to induce the men to join. Anyone who had had any experience would realise that the work of an infantryman was child's play compared with that of the cavalryman. The cavalryman started the day in the stables, and during the day had to devote a long time to looking after his horse, saddlery, and accoutrements. These duties, which in barracks were hard, were particularly so under canvas when the saddlery became saturated with rain. The extra duty involved in maintaining the saddlery in that state of efficiency which was necessary and economical only the experienced could realise. The Amendment should appeal to anyone who had at heart the interest of the Territorial Army. He had never favoured the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, but if it was to be a success, as he sincerely hoped it would be, the Amendment ought to receive sympathetic consideration.

*MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said he would like to see the Amendment accepted and applied equally to all branches of the Territorial Force as a matter of common equity. If a man had extra work he should be paid in proportion. It was obvious to everybody that the work of a cavalryman and an artilleryman must be harder than that of an ordinary infantry soldier. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the work of entrenchment done by ordinary infantrymen, but did the infantry soldier have to go to entrenchment work three times a day as the cavalry soldier had to go to stables, not to mention the extra work of cleaning saddlery? As a result of the system inaugurated by the Bill it was inevitable that there would for the first two years after a Yeomanry regiment was taken over be two classes of pay. If some concession were granted as proposed by the Amendment that might to a certain extent be obviated. The Yeoman practically held the situation in his own hand. There were only a certain number of men in this country fitted to be efficient Yeomen, and unless the services of those men were obtained the Secretary for War could not get sufficient cavalrymen for the Territorial Force. He hoped before it was too late that the right hon. Gentleman would realise the great difference between the work of one branch and another. It would be a great mistake to level down the Yeomanry to the level of other branches of the service instead of levelling up the others to the standard of efficiency and effectiveness of the Yeomanry.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he could not agree with what had been put forward on behalf of the cavalry. In another sphere the infantry deserved well of their country. They had done everything they could to attain efficiency. His hon. friend had dwelt on the terrible hardships of the Yeomanry, but he had forgotten to mention the benefits which they received. He had forgotten the magnificent uniform which was the envy of the infantry and which gave them a great advantage in certain circles. He had also forgotten the enormous personal fatigue of long marches, the great weights which the infantry had to carry, and the entrenchment work to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred. When the infantry were marching weary miles the cavalry came riding and prancing past, their plumes waving in the wind. They were the admiration of the multitude. He reminded the Committee that there were mounted infantry who were quite equal to any troops of Yeomanry. In fact the Yeomanry were constantly beaten by the mounted infantry at Bisley and elsewhere. While he greatly appreciated the spirit in which his right hon. friend the Member for Dover had moved the Amendment, he hoped that the Government would stand firm in regard to the principle of equality.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) wished to get some information from the Financial Secretary to the War Office as to whether when the Associations were formed there would be equality of treatment in the different branches. After the County Associations were formed and the Yeomanry were taken over, would there be equality in emolument between the old members of the corps and the new recruits of the same regiment? If there were two scales of pay it would be extremely difficult to persuade men to enrol themselves on a lower scale when men of equivalent rank received the higher scale.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.) was understood to say that the existing members of a Yeomanry regiment would continue to receive the existing pay; but that after the County Associations were formed and took over the Yeomanry the new recruits would receive the pay settled in this Bill.

LORD BALCARRES said that in that case it was clearly impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment. Privates who enlisted subsequently to the Yeomanry being taken over by the County Associations would only get one-third of the pay which the original members received, and the existence of two scales of pay would be adverse to recruiting.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said that as long as they recognised the principle that the men were to be paid, they should pay them for what they did. The Secretary of State for War had not met the argument of the right hon Member for Dover at all. The right hon. Gentleman said that the foot soldier was often out all night on outpost duty; he had himself been out all night as a Volunteer on many occasions, but whenever Yeomanry and artillery were available, they were out all night too. The Secretary for War had also stated that the infantry had entrenching to do; but the artillery had also to execute entrenching work which was far more severe and difficult. The infantry had only to dig trenches to cover themselves, whereas the artillery had to make trenches to cover themselves and their guns. He hoped the arguments of the right hon. Member for Dover would be really answered, instead of being met by the idle reasons which had been already given. Extra allowance should also be given to the mounted infantry and the machine-gun detachments. If the right hon. Gentleman had the handling of Maxim guns he would know how extraordinarily complicated their mechanism was, and how liable they were to jam. He had had a Maxim gun section under his command for two years, and he knew the enormous amount of extra work entailed on the men of that section. They had not only their own duties to perform and their rifles to look after, but after a field day, in which they had to drag the machine-guns, they had to spend long hours in stripping the guns and cleaning them and getting them into ship-shape order for the work of the following day. It was of paramount importance to get the pick of the men for the machine-gun section, and that could only be done by making them an extra allowance for the additional duties they had to perform. He thought that the Amendment deserved support.

*MR. LANE-FOX said he understood from a letter written to him by the Secretary for War that the men who had enlisted for three years under present conditions would continue to receive the pay fixed when they enlisted until the end of their engagement.

MR. BUCHANAN said that any promise made would be adhered to.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.) said that for three years there would be practically no change, but when the Yeomanry regiments came under the County Associations there would be a change of pay.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said that supposing a man enlisted for three years between now and the Bill coming into force, and that a County Association was formed next year to take over the control of the Yeomanry, and thereafter a man enlisted for three years, there would be in the same regiment two sets of men serving at different rates of pay.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 48; Noes, 246. (Division List No. 198.

AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G. (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Arthur
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D

Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford East)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A, (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow John Emmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ Williams (Devonport
Benn, W.T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E.N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, SirJ.H.(Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H.(Sussex, EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)

Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras, N.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunne, Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. M.
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice

Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.

Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT moved an Amendment to provide that for the effective central administration of the Territorial Force a Department should be established at the War Office under an officer having special knowledge and experience with the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, and ranking as the third military member of the Army Council. The words with the exception that they only applied to the Volunteers were on the Paper as an Amendment to Clause 5, but the Chairman suggested that they would not properly come in at that point, and therefore he moved them in this place and added the words which extended the provision to Yeomanry and Militia. A Royal Commission, composed of a large number of very experienced Members, had sat upon the Constitution of the Militia and Volunteers, under the Chairmanship of the Duke of Norfolk. They pointed out that the Volunteers owed their existence to the goodwill of its officers and men, and the fact that it did not attain to the standard of the Regular Army was in no way attributable to them. They recommended that the Volunteer force should be managed at the War Office by a separate Department which had special experience of Volunteers and should report direct to the Army Council. That Report was signed by nearly every Member of the Commission. There was a supplementary Report by Colonel O'Callaghan Westwood who had given great attention to the Auxiliary Forces, and whose opinion carried great weight, and he said he had no doubt whatever that the maladministration which had been recorded in the Report would have been greatly decreased if they had had at the War Office a Department to which abuses could be reported with a representative so highly placed that he could have sought redress from the Secretary of State for War. He was quite sure that if the Territorial Force was to succeed it must be administered at the War Office by a distinctly separate Department manned by officers who were experienced in the administration of the Yeomanry, Militia and Volunteers, and had a belief in those forces. He quite agreed that a good deal had been done in this direction in recent years. Up to 1875 there was nothing done in regard to the Auxiliary Forces, but in that year Sir Edward Bulwer was appointed first Adjutant-General. Then under Mr. Brodrick or some other Secretary for War an Inspector-General of Auxiliary Forces was created, but that officer never had any real authority. He was always under the Adjutant-General, and was always a subordinate officer. Recently an Inspector-General of Auxiliary Forces was appointed in the person of General Mackinnon, an extremely able officer in the field, with a great knowledge of the Auxiliary Forces, but General Mackinnon had never been placed in a position in which he had his proper place as Inspector-General; he had always been under the Adjutant-General. He had no independent office of any kind, and he could only say to any officer who interviewed him that he would submit his views to his superior officer. The result was that although General Mackinnon's experience was very great he had not been able to carry out what he would have been able to do if he had been placed in a superior position. They had always protested against the administration of the Auxiliary Forces being a mere subordinate department to the Adjutant-General's. They bore no ill-will against the Adjutant General, General Douglas, who was an experienced officer. There was nothing personal in what they said, but the Auxiliary Forces felt very strongly that their numbers and importance entitled them to be represented by a general officer or an officer of high rank with a position on the Army Council, so that he would be able to lay before the Army Council the necessities and feelings of the Auxiliary Forces. The Secretary for War said he thought this was a very important matter, and so long as he was at the War Office he would make himself responsible for the Auxiliary Forces, but they did not know how long the right hon. Gentleman with his genial good temper would be at the head of military affairs. If this measure passed he would do all in his power to make it a success, but he was quite certain that it could not be successful unless the Auxiliary Forces were represented on the Army Council by a general officer or officer of high rank who was conversant with and had had experience of the Auxiliary Forces, who was, above all, a believer in them, and whose reputation depended upon their efficiency. He therefore hoped that the Amendment, which was moved with a genuine desire to put something in the Bill in order to make it a success, would be accepted by the right hon. Gentleman.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 21, at end, to add the words 'And for the effective central administration of this force a department shall be established at the War Office under an officer having special knowledge and experience with the Volunteers, and ranking as the third military member of the Army Council.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said the real point of difference between the Secretary of State and the hon. and gallant Member was this—that whereas the latter desired that the Auxiliary Forces should be represented by a military officer of experience, the former believed that that was not the desire of the Auxiliary Forces as a whole. ["No."] He was told that the overwhelming opinion of that body was that their representative should be a civilian who was himself a member of the Auxiliary Forces, and not a soldier. What was it they wanted represented on the Army Council? They wanted, not the mere military point of view of how much and in what way they should train, but that there should be some one intimately acquainted from personal experience with the needs and requirements, from an inside point of view, of citizen soldiers. The most sympathetic of soldiers did not and could not, from the nature of his service in the Army, know as much about what was passing in the minds of civilians as one who was himself a civilian and who happened to be a politician. The director-general of the Auxiliary Forces would be associated with the Civil member of the Council, and give him the advantage of his military knowledge and experience.

SIR GILBERT PARKER asked whether the Civil member of the Council was intended to be an officer of the Auxiliary Forces.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said it was impossible to say whether the next Government or, indeed, the present Government would appoint to the post a member of that House or the other—for he must belong to one or the other—for his eminence as a soldier or for his eminence as a politician. As a matter of fact, the last two Under-Secretaries at the War Office had been either Regular soldiers or members of the Auxiliary Forces, or both; and no doubt that was a consideration which would not be lost sight of in the future. The Government felt a great desire to proceed along the lines suggested by the hon. and gallant Gentleman, but they could not accept the Amendment for fear it might unduly tie their hands.

SIR GILBERT PARKER did not think that those who took any interest in this particular organisation would be quite satisfied with the reply of the Under-Secretary of State for India. That reply in brief was that the representative of the Territorial Force on the Army Council was to be the Under-Secretary of State for War.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The Civil member.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said that did not alter the position in the slightest. This was not the first time the matter had come up. On many occasions they had strongly advocated what his hon. and gallant friend had advocated that evening, but they would never have accepted under the old system what the Under-Secretary of State now proposed. All they would have accepted then was that for which the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield appealed, namely, a direct representative of the Territorial Force on the Army Council. Either they should have an officer of the Regular Forces who thoroughly understood the Volunteers, or an officer of the Auxiliary Forces who understood their needs and views. Such an officer should be put in a position of responsibility at the War Office. They asked for a separate department at the War Office because they believed the Auxiliary Forces had suffered more from lack of clear representation of their views to the War Minister and through him to the Cabinet, than from any other source. They were told that they were being given a new Home defence force with clearly defined duties, and providing for the Regular Army a reserve in time of war such as the Regular Army had never had before from the Auxiliary Forces; and yet, at the very time the Auxiliary Forces were given an entirely new position, they were told that to satisfy their anxious demand for a clearer and stronger representation of their views a Civil member, advised by the Director-general, was to represent them at the War Office. He did not think that any auxiliary officer in the House would be satisfied with that, and he believed that if his hon. friend's Amendment had been proposed by the Government not five Members on the other side of the House would have been found to oppose it. [AN HON. MEMBER: Not one.] Again and again his friends had urged a separate department at the War Office, with for its head an auxiliary officer of great experience—a man, say, like Sir Alfred Turner; or there were many other officers who had great sympathy with the Auxiliary Forces, who would be able to represent directly to the War Office or the Army Council the consensus of opinion the needs and position in our military organisation of the Auxiliary Forces. In the last Parliament when they were fighting the fight of the Auxiliary Forces, and fighting for Army Reform, they looked upon the right hon. Gentleman as one who understood the position and sympathised with their views in regard to the Auxiliary Forces. What possible objection could he have to this Amendment? With a separate department, they would have at the head of it an officer who would understand the policy of the right hon. Gentleman, and they would have a direct representation of the Auxiliary Forces at the War Office. He strongly supported the Amendment.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said he believed that the Amendment had more substance and real merit than any which had preceded it. He did not say that the Secretary for War should accept this Amendment in the exact form moved, but he did not think it would be wise that he should leave the matter as it had been presented by the Under-Secretary for India. This was a very real grievance which the Auxiliary Forces had been suffering from for years. Their complaint had always been that they had never been understood by the War Office nor even by the Army Council. They had certainly hoped that those days had now gone, and that under the new organisation they would have a separate department and direct representation on the Army Council. He did not think that representation through a Civil member would at all meet the case. The Civil member might be the Under-Secretary of State, who would be chosen for his administrative abilities and not because of his military knowledge. He held that it was more and more necessary, now that they had a new scheme, with large delegation to county associations, that they should have at the Army Council direct representation of the Auxiliary Forces by a military man, and he did not say that that military man should be a member of the Auxiliary Forces. There were in the British Army at the present time many military men who had been adjutants, and had experience of Volunteer corps; and he would almost go the length of saying that he would take any man who had personal experience of the Auxiliary Forces as a representative on the Army Council. Really he thought that was essential, and direct representation they should have. They were going to create a Territorial Army which was to be sufficient in itself, and surely, if the Secretary for War would for a moment think what was to be expected from that Territorial Army, he would feel that there must be a separate department with direct representation on the Army Council, so that he might have expert opinion to guide him in any new schemes or new administration of the forces. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would at once, if he could not accept the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, give the Committee such an undertaking as would show that he realised that direct representation, with a separate department for the Territorial Army, was absolutely necessary.

MR. WYNDHAM endorsed what had been said by the hon. Member. The Under-Secretary for India had suggested a Civil member of the Council; but what guns would such a member carry against the distinguished generals on the Council? The view of the Auxiliary Forces was that, if they were to have fair play on the Army Council, their representative must have the same standing in the Army as the distinguished generals who would be his colleagues. If it were made worth his while many an officer would take an interest in the Auxiliary Forces. If it were a prize to a distinguished soldier who made the Auxiliary Forces the subject of his attention to represent the Force on the Council, it would be doing more for those Forces than representation in the sense in which the Under-Secretary for India understood it. Years ago the Auxiliary Forces had more effective representation at the War Office than now when about the fourth great general was in charge of the Recruiting and Auxiliary Forces.

MR. HALDANE said it had been suggested that the best way of getting the organisation of the Territorial Army worked out was that it should be represented on the Army Council by either a Regular soldier having some special interest in it or by a Territorial soldier who knew the facts; because the traditions of the Army Council were that the big soldier—and the big soldier was always a Regular soldier—who had held high command should, in military matters, carry the greatest weight in the Council, and no Auxiliary Force officer could compete with him. They must be practical, and consider how they were to get the best organisation for the Territorial Army. So difficult was the problem that he thought it was desirable that, in the first instance, it should be worked out by the Minister chiefly responsible to Parliament. The Secretary of State, after all, always had more influence on the Army Council than anyone else, and he would tell the Committee frankly what was in his mind on this subject. He proposed to take the whole matter into his own hands, and to be the representative of the Territorial Army on the Army Council. He proposed to have a Department presided over by someone who had great knowledge of the Auxiliary Forces, and he would have in his Department representatives of the Territorial Army—people also with express knowledge—and he would be in a position to give advice; and more than that, if it was thought advisable, there would be an Advisory Committee to give them the guidance and the information they wanted.

He said at once that the proposal must be of a transitory character. It must last while they were working out the proper form of organisation. They could not do all at a stroke. They must feel their way. He thought the true representative of the Auxiliary Forces on the Army Council for the future would be a civilian chosen for his knowledge of those forces; but in the intervening period, the period which must begin when the Bill passed, the work must be done by someone who could speak with authority on the Army Council, and he proposed, not because he had any particular confidence in his own capacity, but because of his influence on the Council, to take the matter into his own hands and work it out. All who knew the inside working of the War Office were agreed that that was the best and most effective course to take. They could set down on paper an organisation which would look well, but it should also be one which would work well in practice. It was easy to create a Department such as the Amendment contemplated, but it was quite another thing to make it a working and influential Department. The whole question was whether the person who represented the Territorial Force would, from the beginning, represent it with the authority required to get the organisation thoroughly worked out. That was a matter the responsibility for which he felt ought to be taken by the Secretary of State in the earlier stages, and he was convinced that it would be found the most practical course.

VISCOUNT MORPETH said the question was whether the man who represented the Territorial Force on the Army Council was to be a politician or a soldier. The right hon. Gentleman had placed himself in the position of representative of the Auxiliary Forces, knowing that the Committee would have difficulty in refusing the offer because of the well-founded admiration they had of his capacity and zeal. That could only be a makeshift arrangement in any case. What he and his friends desired was that there should be some arrangement for a permanent representative of the Auxiliary Forces on the Army Council. He thought it was inevitable that in the Territorial Army political influences must operate more than in the Regular Army. Officers of the Yeomany, the Militia, and the Volunteers were often influential Members of Parliament, and, therefore, political influences did come into play. It was for that reason that they thought it was essential that there should be a soldier at the head of the Department. It was for that reason also that they desired to see a general rather than the Secretary of State for War representing the Territorial Force. The Secretary of State did not offer his services permanently; he said that they had the Under-Secretary to fall back upon. He did not desire to say anything disrespectful of Under-Secretaries, but they would not be able to contend against the distinguished soldiers on the Army Council.

MAJOR SEELY said he wished to reply to a phrase that fell from the right hon. Member for Dover to the effect that no civil member could ever have so great authority as a military member in the Army Council. That was disproved by recent history. No man ever did more for the Auxiliary Forces in a short time than the right hon. Gentleman himself. He did not say that in order to score a debating point. Every member of the Auxiliary Forces knew that it was true. At a time of stress and difficulty—

although it might not suit the right hon. Gentleman's book at this particular moment to acknowledge it—he did more tangible things for the Auxiliary Forces than all the generals or others who had had charge of those Forces before him. He could not deny it. It did not matter whether they had a civilian or a soldier representing the Territorial Force on the Army Council. [An HON. MEMBER: The Member for Dover is a soldier.] He admitted that the right hon. Gentleman was at one time a distinguished officer of the Guards, but at the time referred to he was a politician pure and simple. He thought the mover of the Amendment would agree with him in saying that the Adjutant-General should be deprived of power to control the Territorial Army, not because he had any evil intentions towards that Army, but because, in view of his other duties in connection with the Regular Army, he might be antipathetic to the Volunteers. While he could not vote for the precise terms of the Amendment, he was thoroughly in sympathy with the mover in wishing a separate Department. He hoped the Secretary of State would agree to some such proposal.

MR. GUEST said the Auxiliary Forces had suffered more in the past from not being properly represented on the Army Council than from any other reason. He wanted to know why they should not be represented on the Army Council by both a civil and a military representative. It was almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of having the Territorial Force adequately represented on the Army Council, who would control their destinies along with the destinies of the Regular Army.

And, it being half-past Ten of the Clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of 6th May, to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Amendment already proposed from the Chair:—

Question put, "That the words 'and for the effective central administration of this force to establish a Department at the War Office under an officer having special knowledge and experience with the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers ranking as the third member of the Army Council,' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 114; Noes, 295. (Division List No. 199.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brodie, H. C.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chance, Frederick William
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. (Bury S. Edm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull
Lambton,, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.

Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lynch, H. B.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Micking, Major G.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pirie, Duncan V.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ:
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, Hon. C. W. H. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Howard Vincent and Sir Gilbert Parker.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)

Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt.Hon.David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M‘Laren, Sir C. B.(Leicester)
M‘Laren, H.D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes,Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,SirW.D.(Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampt'n)
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,HerbertL. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, SirC.E.(Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw,Charles Edw.(Stafford)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt.Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor,TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warn,John(Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White,J.D.(Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,JohnHenry(Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,P.W.(St.Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

The Chairman then proceeded successively to put forthwith the Questions on the Amendments moved by the Government of which notice had been given, and on the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 294; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 200.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, RedmondJ.(Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.

Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc.)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen, C (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley

Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St, Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Ayes.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, Jodn Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring,Capt.Hn.G(Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G, Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Clynes, J. R.
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol,West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement(Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King,SirHenry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton,Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea,HughCecil (St.Pancras, E.)
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Londsale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Wm.G. (Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Percy, Earl
Pirie, Duncan V.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,JohnFrederick Peel
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Sheffield,SirBerkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker,Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward,John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Pike Pease.

Clause 7 amended.

Question put, "That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 283; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 201.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen,A.Acland(Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry

Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barrow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc,HilaireJosephPeter R.
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R.(Essex,Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell(Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinbargh, S.
Dewar, John A, (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder,SirJohn P.
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth,CecilB.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,ColonelIvor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert,T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lever,W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W.(Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E. (Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.

Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W, C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Alden, Percy
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester
Barnes, G. N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervas
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, William Henry
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edmd's
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Dublin, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Erseby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

IMPORTED WATCH CASES BILL.

Read a second time and committed to a Standing Committee.

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven of the Clock

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 4th June, 1907.

Lucas Peerage.—Committee for Privileges met: Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant; the Attorney-General appearing on behalf of the Crown; the Attorney-General heard; witnesses examined; claim considered: Then it was resolved that the Petitioner Auberon Thomas Herbert, claimant to the Barony of Lucas of Cradwell, hath made out his claim to the said Barony; report thereof to be made to the House.

Viscount Midleton.—Petition of—William St. John Fremantle Brodrick, Baron Brodrick in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and Viscount Midleton, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Presented (pursuant to leave given yesterday), and read 1^a.

Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.—Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Brought from the Commons.

Armagh Urban District Council Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Worthing Gas Bill; Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill; Taff Vale Railway Bill; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill; Swansea Harbour Bill; Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Northern and City Railway Bill; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bills.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—

E. Abingdon,
E. Morley,
V. Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*) (chairman),
L. Oriel (*V. Massereene*),
L. Bowes (*E. Strathmore and Kinghorn*);

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Wednesday, the 12th instant, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Canals Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 62.)

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Fleetwood, Portsmouth, and Sennen. Was presented by (The Lord Granard (*E. Granard*)). Then it was moved, That the Order of the 20th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 2nd day of May next," be dispensed with in respect of the said Bill, and that the Bill be now read 1ª; agreed to; Bill read 1ª accordingly; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 63.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TURKEY (1907).

No. 1. Further correspondence respecting the affairs of South-Eastern Europe. (In continuation of "Turkey, No. 1." (1906) [Cd. 2816.].)

No. 2. Correspondence respecting the increase of the Turkish customs duties.

No. 3. Despatches from the British Adviser on the Macedonian Financial Commission.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3810. Germany (Pomerania).
No. 3811. Portugal (Madeira).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Petition against legalisation of; of clergy of the deanery of Midhurst; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION BILL [H.L.].

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit until further order. (No 61.)

ARREARS IN THE LAW COURTS.

The Earl of HALSBURY: My Lords, I beg to ask the Lord Chancellor a Question of which I have given him private notice, as to the steps that are being taken with reference to the state of business in the Court of Appeal.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Loreburn): My Lords, there is undoubtedly a very serious arrear of business, and through no fault at all of the Judges of the Court of Appeal. They have done their utmost, but there is a heavy arrear which I am quite satisfied ought to be cleared off if the business of the Courts of Justice is to be efficiently conducted. For that purpose I have brought in a Bill which has passed through your Lordships' House and is really in the nature of a Bill providing for emergencies. I hope that the Bill may be allowed to become law, and then I think we shall be able to take in hand the clearance of the list in the Court of Appeal. In addition I have asked a number of distinguished gentlemen to act as a Committee to consider the working of the Judicature Acts and to report whether any alteration in the constitution or practice of the Courts is advisable. Lord Macnaghten has kindly consented to act as Chairman, and I myself propose to serve on the Committee, though I am afraid I shall not be able to give so much attention to the matter as I would wish. The following have also consented to serve:—The Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Probate and Admiralty Division, Mr. Justice Bigham, Mr. Justice Warrington, the Attorney-General, Sir Robert Finlay, G.C.M.G., K.C., Mr. J. E. Bankes, K.C., Mr. S. A. T. Rowlatt, Mr. Willes Chitty, Mr. C. A. Coward, and Mr. William Cobbett. These gentlemen are all familiar with this subject, and I do not apprehend that much, if any, evidence will be required. I sincerely hope that the efforts of this Committee will enable us before long to get the whole of the business of the High Court of Justice placed on such a footing that there will be no delay and no arrears in the management of public business.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

THE EARL OF LYTTON said he desired to put a question to the Government with regard to Subsection (b) of Clause 2. There was, he said, no mention in the Bill as it stood of any notice being required to be sent to the inspector as to the days of the week upon which a particular laundry elected the system of employment there set out. He understood, however, that by Section 32 of the principal Act notice would be required to be sent once in every quarter. There occurred in Section 32 of the principal Act the following words—

> "The occupier of every factory and workshop . . . shall, subject to any special exceptions made by or in pursuance of this Act, specify in a notice——"

He feared that there was some danger that the words "subject to any special exception" might, in any subsequent proceedings, be urged as doing away with the necessity of sending any notice at all, inasmuch as the whole of this clause was an exception to the general Act. He would like to know if the Government had fully considered this point.

EARL BEAUCHAMP assured the noble Earl that His Majesty's Government had considered the matter, and that in their opinion there was no doubt at all upon the point.

THE EARL OF LYTTON moved to leave out subsection (d) which ran—

> "(*d*) Different periods of employment may be fixed for different days of the week."

He did so for the reason that the subsection seemed to him to tend to complicate what was already a very complicated measure. From year to year constant references were made in the various Factory Reports to the great difficulty of getting the Act understood, and to the fact that constantly in prosecutions which were instituted under the Act for breaches of the law excuses were put forward on behalf of the guilty person that he was utterly unable to understand the law as it stood and the complicated notices brought before him. There was no doubt that this Bill would be a great improvement in that direction, but he maintained that this particular subsection tended in the direction of increased complication. Therefore, unless some very strong reason were put forward for its inclusion in the Bill he would ask the House to cut it out.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 21 and 22, to leave out paragraph (*d*)."—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP expressed the hope that their Lordships would require further reasons before consenting to the elimination of a somewhat important part of the clause. As their Lordships were aware, by this clause laundries were brought under special provisions in a manner in which they had not been regulated up to the present time, and it had been thought only right that there should be a certain latitude in the matter. This was part of the general scheme by which His Majesty's Government had considered that they could meet the equity of the case and give that liberty in the management of laundries which they thought those institutions ought to have. The scheme was not so complicated as the noble Earl seemed to imagine. The factory inspector would have information as to where employment was going on at a specified time, and the inspectors would always be able under this subsection to visit a laundry if at any moment they had reason to suppose that employment was improperly taking place.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

***LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH** moved to leave out the words "or religious" from the second line of Clause 5, which ran—

> "Where in any premises forming part of an institution carried on for charitable, reformatory, or religious purposes," etc.

He explained that his Amendment was intended in no way to be hostile to the object of the Bill. It appeared to him, however, that the words as they would stand if his Amendment were agreed to would be quite sufficient to include every case proposed to be covered by the Bill.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 3, line 16, to leave out the words 'or religious.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP said His Majesty's Government were quite willing to meet the noble Lord on this point, and would agree to the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF LYTTON moved to substitute the word "or" for the words "and not" in the beginning of Clause 5. As amended the clause would read—

> "Where in any premises forming part of an institution carried on for charitable or reformatory purposes or subject to inspection by or under the authority of," etc.

By the Bill as it stood all institutions which came under the authority of any Government Department other than the Factory Department were exempted from the provisions of the Bill. There were laundries attached to such institutions as industrial schools, orphanages, reformatories, workhouses, and so forth, which would all be excluded by the words as they stood, together with Clause 6 of the Bill. Surely it was just as necessary that dangerous machinery should be fenced in a laundry connected with one of these institutions as in any other. Indeed, it was even more necessary, because in a great many instances the people who had to look after the machinery in these institutions knew very little about it, and were not qualified to take care of it properly. Then, if this machinery was to be fenced, and if the sanitary conditions, ventilation, and so forth were to be properly regulated, it was obvious that such work could only be carried out by an inspector of the Department responsible for this sort of thing. No inspector under the Board of Education or the Local Government Board would be qualified to inspect laundry machinery, or to see that a laundry was properly ventilated. He supposed he would be told that the Government were now for the first time placing the services of the Factory Department at the disposal of other Government offices, but they were only placing those services at their disposal when those offices came to the Factory Department and asked for them. He could not help thinking that so long as the matter was left in that position the circumstances would be in the future exactly as they were at present—namely, that there would be no inspection at all, that machinery would remain unfenced, and that laundries requiring better regulation as regards ventilation, drainage, and such matters, would be left exactly as they were at present. Therefore he felt that, merely to meet what might be called departmental etiquette, a very serious evil would be left in existence. If the Government could see their way so to amend Clause 6 as to place the initiative with the Factory Department and leave the right of consent or refusal with the Department under which the institution came, he would be perfectly satisfied, and would be willing to withdraw his Amendment. But unless they would amend the clause in that way he would be compelled to press his Amendment to a division.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 3, line 17, to leave out the words 'and not' and to insert the word 'or.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP said His Majesty's Government were quite ready to draft the clause in the way suggested, and he would bring up Amendments on the Report stage which he hoped would be satisfactory to the noble Earl.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

***LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH** moved an Amendment to the first subsection, inserting after the reference to institutions in which manual labour was exercised the words "as a source of pecuniary profit to the institution and as one of the purposes and objects thereof."

The Amendment, he said, was not intended in any hostile spirit. It appeared to him that the Bill as drafted spread the net rather too wide, and was liable to bring in places where work was not carried on as part of the ordinary working of the institution, but only as a secondary or temporary object. He did not conceive that it was the intention of the Government to include such cases and to bring institutions of this kind under the Factory Act; and to make that clear he moved his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 18, after the word 'exercised' to insert the words 'as a source of pecuniary profit to the institution and as one of the purposes and objects thereof.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP assured the noble Lord that his Amendment was not necessary. So far as regarded institutions in which labour of this kind was only done occasionally, the provision would no more apply under this Bill than under the original Factory and Workshop Act; but, so far as pecuniary profit was concerned, he hoped that the noble Lord would not press the point, for the reason that there were instances in which the Government were anxious that institutions should be inspected, even though pecuniary profit was not made out of them. It was, indeed, one of the purposes of the Bill that the mere question of pecuniary profit should not be made a test as to whether inspection should take place or not.

*LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH said that, subject to any action he might consider it necessary to take on Report, he would for the present withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH explained that the object of his next Amendment was to remove any doubt there might be that the particular premises in which the work was carried on constituted the part of the building which was subject to inspection, and not any other part.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 23, after the word 'premises' to insert the words 'where such labour is exercised,' and to leave out from the word 'notwithstanding' to 'that' in line 24.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP referred the noble Lord to the first line of Clause 5, which contained the words—

"Where in any premises forming part of an institution ——" etc.

Therefore it would only be that part which was affected by the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH called attention to the language of subsection (2) of Clause 5, which provided that, if the managers of an institution satisfied the Secretary of State, among other things, that the only persons working therein were inmates of the institution, or persons, not exceeding two in number, engaged in general supervision, an order might be made applying the principal Act to the institution subject to certain modifications. He asked their Lordships' attention to the phraseology of the subsection. He was not really sure what it was intended to mean. The question he wished to ask was, what was the legal interpretation of the word "inmates"? There was no definition in the Bill, and he wished to know whether it applied to those who were, in current phraseology, "inmates"—namely, persons who were objects of charity and were there for reformatory purposes—or whether it meant to include those who were engaged in supervision. He could hardly believe that matrons, superintendents, and so on were intended to be described under the word "inmates." He thought the natural meaning of the word excluded that suggestion, but if they were not included in the word it seemed to land them in this absurd result, that no institution, however large, could have more than two persons engaged in the supervision of the inmates. It was not quite clear on the face of the clause what was meant, and he hoped that some definite assurance would be given that the definition which seemed the natural one was not intended, and that words would be inserted to give its proper meaning.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 31, after the word 'persons' to insert the words 'dwelling elsewhere.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Earl BEAUCHAMP assured the noble Lord that in the opinion of the Home Office his fears were groundless. If he would withdraw his Amendment at the present time the Government would be willing to consider the matter carefully. If it were found necessary to amend the wording they would do so, but the present opinion of the Home Office was that such an Amendment would not be necessary.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH expressed the hope that they would have a definite assurance that in Standing Committee the point would be looked into, because those whom he had had an opportunity of consulting shared his doubts as to whether the provision was really workable in the form in which it was presented. Their Lordships would see that the sentence was an extremely involved one, and, in the interests of those who would have to work the Act and understand it, he thought the provision might be drafted in a more understandable form.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Earl of LYTTON said his next Amendment proposed to leave out the whole of Clause 5 after the first subsection. If the clause remained as it stood the conditions of labour in the institutions dealt with by the clause would be left entirely vague. The only thing they would know was that each institution would have to submit a scheme and satisfy the Home Office that in its general respects it was not less favourable than the corresponding provisions of the principal Act. His Amendment proposed to omit all that part of the clause and to define in precise terms in the Bill what were the special exemptions which, by reason of their special character, ought to be allowed to these institutions. In support of the Amendment he urged, on the Second Reading, the immense amount of additional labour which would fall on the Home Office if it were called upon to look through all the schemes submitted; but he would not go further into that argument at the present moment. His objection to the clause as it stood was that every single point at the present moment in dispute with regard to the conditions which ought to prevail in these institutions was put on one side; not one of the points was settled, the whole thing was left vague, and those points were the very ones which required the most precise definition.

There were only three points of importance which could be dealt with under any scheme which an institution might submit to the Home Office—namely, the hours of work, the question of meal times, and the question of holidays. With regard to hours of work it would scarcely be contended, he thought, by any religious or charitable institution, that any licence should be given to work longer hours in such a place than were allowed under the ordinary law to commercial laundries. Nor would longer hours, he imagined, be allowed under the scheme, which had to be on the whole not less favourable than the provisions in the original Act. Therefore, there were only two modifications with regard to hours which could be asked for. One was that different periods of labour should be chosen from those allowed by the Act. The Factory and Workshop Act at present allowed the hours of labour to be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., or from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. That, he thought, was sufficiently wide for any laundry. Those were limits arrived at, he might almost say by international agreement, and if institutions on charitable or religious grounds were going to ask to be allowed to begin work before 6 a.m. in the morning or to continue work after 9 o'clock at night, he could not help feeling very strongly that that was an exception that ought not to be made in their favour.

On the other hand, an institution might ask within those limits to be allowed a wider discretion; in other words, to be allowed to choose their own period of twelve hours between 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock. If that was what they were going to ask for, it was exactly the situation which had caused so much trouble in the past and been objected to by factory inspectors. That loose system by which a laundry could choose its own period of employment did away altogether with the value of inspection. This was bad enough in an ordinary laundry; it was considerably worse in a laundry attached to a charitable or reformatory institution, because the only way the inspector could ascertain whether the law was being carried out was by questioning the inmates, and that was a course which should as much as possible be avoided. Those were the only points in regard to the question of hours which could be put into a scheme, and both of them, he maintained, in the interest of the institution themselves, ought not to be made matter of special exemption.

With regard to meal times, it was often urged by these institutions that it was impossible for them to conform to the provisions of the principal Act that all the inmates should take their meals at the same time, but there was a clause in the Factory Act which gave power for a variation in that respect. Clause 40 subsection (4) of the principal Act enabled the Secretary of State to make any exception in the case of a particular factory or workshop, where cause was shown, to enable the meals to be taken at different hours, so that in regard to meals there was no need for this exemption. There only remained the question of holidays, and that was a matter on which these institutions were entitled to some little consideration. If the condition of the weather or other matters were unfavourable and they wished to change their holidays at very short notice, he did not see why that liberty should not be given to them; but that should be put into the Act and should be definitely stated as an exception in their favour. That was what his Amendment proposed to do. In all other respects these laundries ought to work on the same conditions as commercial laundries with which they competed.

He would remind the Government that there was a possibility of objection being taken to their Bill from the other side, and that if the Bill were sent down with these points which had been for so many years in dispute unsettled considerable objection would be taken to the Bill as from a different quarter in the House of Commons. He would also remind the Government that the institutions themselves were not united in this matter. Among these institutions there was a progressive section and there was a timid and apprehensive section. Those who belonged to the former had constantly felt that the more the conditions of labour in the institutions were brought into line with those outside the better it would be for the institutions themselves. He was convinced—and he was sure the most rev. Primate would bear him out—that it was in the best interests of the institutions themselves that where they were engaged in industrial work they should frankly accept the conditions which had been accepted by and were enforced upon all bodies carrying out the same industrial work, and that it would only do harm to them in the long run if they claimed, on special religious grounds or in consequence of their special reformatory work, privileges which would only have the effect of arousing suspicion and mistrust. Therefore, unless the Government offered to amend in some form or another this clause as it stood in the direction of greater definition, he would respectfully ask the House to cut out the clause and substitute one of a more definite character.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 27, to leave out from the beginning of subsection (2) to the end of the clause, and to insert as a new subsection:—

(2) In laundries attached to or forming part of any institution to which this section applies the following modifications of the law relating to holidays and notices shall have effect:

> (*a*) Subsection three of Section thirty-five of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, shall not apply, and the following provisions shall be substituted in lieu thereof: A notice of every holiday or half holiday must be forwarded during the first week in January to the inspector for the district, and unless the notice has been so sent, cessation from work shall not be deemed to be a whole holiday or a half holiday. Provided that any such notice may be changed by a subsequent notice sent in like manner not less than twenty-four hours before the holiday or half holiday to which it applies.
>
> (*b*) The managers of the institution shall not later than the fifteenth day of January in each year send to the Secretary of State a correct return in the prescribed form, specifying the names of the managers and

> the name of the person (if any) having charge of the institution under the managers, and such particulars as to the number, age, sex, and employment of the inmates and other persons employed in the work carried on in the institution as the Secretary of State may require, and shall, if any requirement of this paragraph is not complied with, be liable to a fine not exceeding *five pounds.*—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY asked the meaning of subsection (*d*)—

> "The provisions of the principal Act as to sending notices to the inspector shall not apply except so far as an order made by the Secretary of State may otherwise direct."

If this meant that an institution was not, for instance, to be obliged to send notices of accident just as a trade laundry was, he would deprecate that in the strongest possible manner. He found it difficult to imagine what notices were here referred to unless they were the notices regarding holidays about which the noble Lord had already spoken. The more consideration he gave to this question the more he felt himself coming to the conclusion that the justification for very exceptional treatment of institutional laundries was unnecessary and practically unworkable. He did not believe that institutions properly conducted need fear anything from inspection. This was a matter of administration rather than of legislation. If the administration was carried out by the Home Office in the way he believed it would be, he did not think the occasions would be at all numerous on which any difficulty would arise from inspection taking place in the ordinary way. He was strongly in favour of inspection by experts in machinery. While there were some few points on which special information was necessary, he felt that what the noble Earl called the timid section of managers must not be allowed to prevent the more trustful section of the managers of these institutions from claiming that protection for their inmates which would result from inspection, which was feared much more from ignorance of what it really meant than because of any real harm that it would do them.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH hoped the noble Lord would not accept the very sweeping Amendment proposed by the noble Earl. It would destroy the scheme which the Home Office had elaborated in concert with those who were for the first time to be brought under inspection. It would destroy all the elasticity which was necessary to the working of the Bill in these institutions. He agreed with the most rev. Primate that the institutions which dreaded the interference of a Government department were unduly apprehensive, but they were willing to try it loyally under the safeguards and conditions proposed by the Home Office in the Bill. The Amendment would re-open controversy, and the failure of the Bill in another place would be risked. There was no desire in the institutions for which he could speak that the hours of work should be longer than in commercial laundries, but it was reasonable to ask that there should be greater elasticity in the arrangement of them. If any institution were caught even once deceiving the Home Office or its inspectors, there might be a penal power given to the Home Office to strike it out of the list of privileged institutions, but he would not harass those engaged in a difficult and delicate work by putting them all at once under the stringent regulations applicable to an ordinary factory. In regard to holidays, he would point out that it was one of the objects of certain institutions to teach their inmates lessons of self-control and discipline, and for that purpose the power of giving or withholding holidays was a valuable assistance. The public holidays were not the occasions on which to turn this class of inmate out into the streets. He had no desire that they should have fewer holidays, but the managers should have power to change the holidays or to substitute two half-holidays for one.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the noble Lord had expressed so admirably the views of His Majesty's Government, and he thought also the commonsense point of view, that he need not detain their Lordships at any length in further reply to an Amendment which went at once to the root of the part of the Bill under consideration. If the noble Earl would turn to the words of subsection (*a*), he would see that the Secretary of State would have to be satisfied that the provisions of a scheme were not less favourable than the provisions of the principal Act, and there would be no unfair competition, therefore, with industrial laundries. For the information of the inspector the necessary particulars had to be entered in a register, and no notices would be required to be sent to the inspector except such as the Secretary of State might direct; but he could assure the most rev. Primate that notices of accident would be amongst those which the Secretary of State would expect to have sent to the inspector. The idea was that if the Bill became law there would probably be a conference between representatives of the Home Office and these institutions, and the general lines of a scheme would be laid down showing the conditions under which modifications would be allowed. In institutions dealing with women whose characters were not well regulated, it was essential for purposes of discipline that variation of the regulations applying to industrial laundries should be allowed, and the concessions corresponded generally with those asked for by a representative deputation to the Home Secretary upon the subject.

THE EARL OF **LYTTON** replied, expressing himself as dissatisfied with the answer he had received. He denied that inspection would be obstructive to discipline, and quoted from a letter he had received from the mother superior of a large institution in favour of inspection as a help rather than a hindrance to the maintenance of discipline. There was enough elasticity in the provisions of the Factory Act to meet the conditions existing in institution laundries. He would not now press his Amendment, and withdrew it, but without prejudice to proposals he might make at a subsequent stage.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to, and Bill reported with an Amendment to the House.

EARL **BEAUCHAMP** asked whether, in view of the noble Earl's intention to bring up Amendments on the Report stage, their Lordships would think it necessary to deal with the Bill in Standing Committee. The reference of the Bill to that Committee would somewhat delay matters, and time would be saved and two discussions prevented if the Amendments were dealt with on Report only. If that were agreeable to noble Lords opposite—and only if it were agreeable—he would move that the Standing Committee be negatived.

Moved, "That the Standing Committee be negatived."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Report of the Amendment to be received on Thursday next; and the Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 64.)

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

THE MARQUESS OF **LONDONDERRY** rose to "call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the continuance of acts of lawlessness in various districts in Ireland; and to ask the Government whether, having regard to such acts, they were still of opinion that 'the condition of Ireland as a whole was very satisfactory,' as stated by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons." The noble Marquess said: My Lords, I have no doubt whatever that in raising this question I shall, in the mind of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, be classed with those of my hon. friends in another place of whom the right hon. Gentleman said their questions were put with the sole object of maligning and misrepresenting their country in the eyes of the English people. Well, my Lords, that may be the opinion of the Chief Secretary, but I venture to say it is not the opinion of fair, honest-minded men in any part of His Majesty's dominions; it is not the opinion of the law-abiding, industrious inhabitants of Ireland, and I am perfectly convinced that it is not the opinion of the unfortunate inhabitants of those parts of Ireland to which my hon. friends in the House of Commons alluded who are now groaning under the tyranny of the United Irish League.

I need hardly explain to your Lordships that on the present occasion I have no intention of raising an ordinary Irish debate. I have myself had official experience of Ireland. I have also had practical experience of that country as an Irishman, and I therefore venture to think that your Lordships will do me the credit of believing me when I say that had this not been a matter of extreme importance I should not have raised it at the present time. I have taken this action in the interests of Ireland as a whole, and to show those unfortunate persons who live in the less peaceful parts of the country that we in the north of Ireland are not unmindful of their welfare. I can assure your Lordships that I put the question with a full sense of my responsibility, and I feel that His Majesty's Government have an even more serious and important duty in answering the question. Upon that answer will depend the condition, whether peaceable or disturbed, of a very great part of the south and west of Ireland.

I have myself always taken the line—and I am sure the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council will agree with me as to its wisdom—of not laying too great stress on violent speeches when those speeches have been made in districts where no great harm is likely to accrue. The noble Earl will remember that I endorsed a remark of his last session when he stated that Irishmen often say a great deal more than they mean, and in consequence of that belief I am not prone to attach undue importance to violent speeches delivered in districts where comparatively little harm is likely to be done by them. But it is a very different thing when violent speeches are made in districts under the thraldom of the United Irish League; for there they are calculated to injure the property and endanger the lives of the people denounced, and consequently it is the bounden duty of the responsible Government to prevent them. I assert that such speeches are now being made in certain parts of the west of Ireland, where the United Irish League is so strong and powerful that it is able to carry on a widespread conspiracy almost with impunity.

Now, what has been the answers to the Questions of my hon. friends in another place? Of course the Government naturally do not desire to offend their Nationalist supporters in the House of Commons. Consequently the Chief Secretary and his representative, whose answers I shall quote in a moment, have made very light of the present serious condition of affairs. The right hon. Gentleman has declared, in answer to a Question in another place, that there is no widespread conspiracy, though he admitted that certain limited areas gave some cause for anxiety. I think that is a very remarkable statement for the Chief Secretary to make. Supposing it were true that this conspiracy is confined to certain limited areas, I would ask His Majesty's Government whether the life of every individual within those areas is not as valuable as the life of every individual outside them; and have any responsible Government the right to disregard the lives of people within certain limited areas on the ground that the rest of Ireland is in a peaceable condition? Such a contention is unworthy of any responsible Government. Every individual in every part of Ireland has just as much right to look for protection to the law as the Chief Secretary himself in his lodge in Phoenix Park.

I entirely controvert the statement of the Chief Secretary that this violent conspiracy is confined to certain small areas. Proof that the conspiracy is widespread is to be found in the admissions of the Chief Secretary himself and the Attorney-General for Ireland in answer to Questions in the House of Commons during May. On 7th May Mr. Cherry, answering for Mr. Birrell a question put by Mr. Bridgeman, stated that—

> "On 1st May, 245 grazing farms were under police protection."

On 15th May, Mr. Birrell, replying to a question by Mr. Arkwright, said that—

> "Eighty-one policemen are occupied in affording protection to occupiers of grazing farms in the counties of Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon. In addition some 400 police secure the stock on the farms from molestation."

Then on 29th May, Mr. Birrell, replying to a Question by Captain Craig, said that during the month ended 25th May approximately twenty cases of driving cattle off farms occurred, and prosecutions had been instituted in eight of these cases. During the same period six police officers and 280 men were drafted into Connaught. In two cases, Mr. Birrell added, policemen were encamped on farms, one being in County Roscommon and the other in King's County. On 30th May, in reply to Mr. Long, Mr. Birrell gave the following districts as those where additional forces of constabulary were employed, viz.—

(1) County Clare, four districts, one head constable and sixty-five reserve.

(2) County Cork, East Riding, two districts, seven reserve.

(3) County Leitrim and Cavan, two districts, twenty-two reserve.

(4) County Galway, E.R. Athenry, thirty-five reserve.

(5) County Roscommon, districts of Stokestown and Castlerea, one district inspector, two head constables, eighty-three reserve, and fifty men from other counties.

(6) King's County, Parsonstown, one district inspector and twenty-five reserve.

Mr. Birrell added these very significant words—

> "In all these cases the augmentation of the local police force was necessitated by the disturbed state of the district."

Yet in spite of these facts it is asserted that the state of Ireland is satisfactory.

I have received a large number of letters on the state of the west of Ireland; I will not trespass upon your Lordships' indulgence by quoting them all. I will only mention three cases to illustrate the nature of the offences on account of which extra police have been drafted into the disturbed districts. I will first give the Russell case. Mr. Russell held a grazing farm at Kilmore. On 5th May as he was coming from church a mob of forty or fifty people rushed out of the Temperance Hall close by, where a meeting of the United Irish League was being held, shouting, groaning, and booing until Mr. Russell passed on. In the evening a crowd of 200 men came out to Mr. Russell's house, shouting, booing and cheering and banging a drum. Five hundred yards from Mr. Russell's house they were met by thirty police who barred the way. A free fight ensued; some of the crowd tried to get across the fields to Mr. Russell's house, but finally the crowd were forced back. The case was tried at Hill Street on 28th May, and these parties were bound over; they refused to give bail and accepted the default of a month's imprisonment. After the trial a free fight between the mob and the police ensued. Later the prisoners left Hill Street for Carrick-on-Shannon in cars, under constabulary escort. On their arrival at Carrick the police and cars were attacked by the crowd at the railway station, but the prisoners were ultimately got safely away. It is now reported that the magistrates concerned in the case have been boycotted.

I will now give your Lordships another case. A Protestant merchant named Nathaniel Luttrell, who held a grazing farm at Roscommon, was denounced at a public meeting on April 14th. This public meeting, according to the poster, was held—

> "For the purpose of taking immediate steps to have the large grazing tracts divided up amongst the people."

Mr. Michael Reddy, a Member of Parliament and a supporter of noble Lords opposite, said at the meeting—

> "You are cowards if you allow Luttrell to stand between you and your just rights."

Further on he said—

> "You ask me how these lands are to be divided——"

and then, waving his hands in the direction of Mr. Luttrell's farm, he continued—

> "And I tell you to follow the example of the West."

Then on April 30th, forty-one cattle, nine horses, and 291 sheep were driven off Mr. Luttrell's farm by a crowd of 300 men, the greater portion of whom were armed with sticks. The police were not present. The case was tried on May 27th, and, as the Court was evenly divided, the case was adjourned for a fortnight. On May 18th another drive occurred, in which 200 men were concerned. Twelve were arrested, and their case was heard on May 31st. They were returned for trial at Nenagh Assizes and allowed on bail. The point of this persecution of Mr. Luttrell was the announcement at a meeting of the United Irish League at Roscrea on 27th May, that Mr. Luttrell had promised to surrender next gale day. Can it be denied that such persecution would not for one moment be permitted in any other part of His Majesty's dominions? The third case is furnished by a circular issued by the Athenry Branch of the Town Tenants' League, pointing out in violent language that their desire to secure accommodation land is frustrated because the farms are in the occupation of graziers who refuse to surrender.

I have received a number of letters from inhabitants of county Clare which lead me to believe that their lives are being made a burden to them. There was a case of a man named M'Auliffe who, when walking home with his brother, was fired at and he fell senseless on the road with twenty-seven shots in his neck and shoulders, and the doctor declared that it was only by a miracle that the man was alive at all. I do not, however, propose to read private letters; it is sufficient for me to rely on the public utterances of public men. In charging the grand jury at the Clare assizes Lord Chief Justice O'Brien said—

> "He regretted very much that it was not his pleasing privilege to congratulate them on the condition of the county. He was afraid that many parts of the county were in a demoralised and lawless condition. . . . Now, in a shire in England, if it was found necessary, either by special protection or protection by police, to protect from risk of outrage thirty persons, what would be thought?"

The Lord Chief Justice at Tralee, on the opening of the assizes, said as regards county Kerry—

> "I regret to say that there are a considerable number of people under police protection. There are thirteen persons under constant police protection—protection by police living in the houses of these people, or living in huts immediately contiguous, and the object of the protection is to shield them against outrage. There are eleven people protected by occasional patrols, that is to say, by police coming from the neighbouring barracks or from certain constabulary huts. Now, the existence of so many people under police protection, the necessity for this protection, is unquestionably an ugly feature."

Then there is a statement of the Judge with regard to county Leitrim, in which he declared that the condition of that county was unsatisfactory. Mr. Justice Ross, in the Land Judge's Court, on 17th May, made this important statement—

> "He had known from other receivers about this widespread and audacious conspiracy at present rampart in the West of Ireland. There might be something to be said for it if it were a conspiracy not to take up any land that had belonged to any former evicted tenant, but this was actually a conspiracy which on ordinary moral grounds amounted to highway robbery, to seize on these grass lands, to drive away the stock of the people who had been in the habit of taking it, and then, when the owner had been starved out, the Estates Commissioners were expected to buy up the property and distribute it amongst the very people who had been urging on the business, and who had been engaged in these outrages and unlawful assemblies."

Upon that statement I believe the Chief Secretary has more or less cast doubt; but from Mr. Justice Ross's position as receiving Judge of the Court of Chancery, I beg to state, with all due respect to Mr. Birrell, that if the opinion of the learned Judge was to be put in the scale against that of the Chief Secretary, the scale would come down heavily on the side of Mr. Justice Ross. The people in the districts in question, in which lawlessness prevails which would not be tolerated in England or Scotland, believe that they have the Government at their back. At Athenry there was the case of the Nationalist justice of the peace, Mr. Kelly, who, sitting on the Bench, said—

> "We have it out of the mouth of the Chief Secretary that they should agitate, and are you going to condemn these men for what they were told to do by the Chief Secretary?"

I commend that observation to the consideration of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. I should like to ask the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council to state, when he replies, how he justifies such an expression, and how he justifies the Chief Secretary for not contradicting it. As that statement was made from the Bench and has not been contradicted these people naturally believe that they have the Government at their back. I would point out to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack that this same Mr. Kelly, on the occasion in question, went out of his way to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution, showing that his bias was undoubtedly on the side of the prisoners. I would ask my noble and learned friend whether, in his opinion, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland is justified in allowing to remain on the Bench a man who takes such a line as that. Then I find Mr. James Fagan, a leading local Nationalist in Roscommon, addressing a meeting at Carrick-on-Shannon on 2nd May declaring—

> "I know we have the sympathy of the English Government on our side, and I know the Chief Secretary, Mr. Birrell, is heart and soul with us in the movement."

There was a curious statement made at a land convention by Mr. John Fitzgibbon, who said—

> "They in Roscommon had taken the land question into their own hands and had constituted compulsory power without waiting for legislation."

I ask noble Lords opposite whether they consider that a statement which ought to be passed by in silence. Can we wonder that the people in Ireland believe they have the Government at their back when such statements are made on the Bench or by prominent men in public meeting and never contradicted by responsible members of of the Government in Ireland? There was a most remarkable case a short time ago. A number of men were brought before the resident magistrate at Athenry for lawlessness, and were told that they must either give bail or go to jail for three months. They refused to give bail and the magistrate committed them to prison for three months, but within fourteen days the Lord-Lieutenant, at the request of the Chief Secretary, released those men. Now what must be the effect of action of that kind in that part of Ireland where lawlessness is rampant and the law is ignored?

There is another reason which leads people to believe that the Government do not disapprove of this intimidation, and that is the attitude of the Irish executive in acceding to actions recently taken by the majority of the Estates Commissioners in Ireland. I speak subject to correction, but I believe my noble friend Lord Atkinson framed a rule which enabled the Estates Commissioners to postpone purchasing any estate if it were found that intimidation had been indulged in. That rule was carried out in its entirety by Mr. Walter Long when he was Chief Secretary. I believe that since then the majority of the Estates Commsssioners have disobeyed that rule, and comparatively recently one of the Estates Commissioners, a layman with no professional knowledge, gave it as his considered opinion that that rule was *ultra vires*. The ruling of this lay gentleman was accepted by the Irish Government exactly as if it had been the ruling of a Judge of the High Court. The Commissioners were naturally bound to obey the Executive, and the adoption of this ruling was a direct encouragement to intimidation. Cattle are driven off farms in the hope that the unfortunate owners will be forced to sell their holdings to the Commissioners at any price whatever, and the Commissioners will then distribute the property among the people in the district. What will be the result of that? These men will enter into holdings from which honest men have been driven, and the money will either come out of the pocket of the unfortunate owner who is forced to sell, or out of the pockets of the British taxpayers, who thus becomes a party to what I may call robbery by violence.

I think I have shown that I am justified in asking the Question that stands in my name. The question of insisting on the preservation of law and order should not be made a Party one. I hope that in the interests of the country as a whole the Government will take steps to put an end to a state of lawlessness which does not extend over small areas merely, but is rapidly spreading over very large areas. They will, I am sure, receive from the Unionist Party in Ireland hearty support in taking measures to restore law and order, and to do justice to the unfortunate people in the districts to which I have referred.

What can the Government do? They can make use of the Crimes Act of 1887. They can bring to justice the people who are guilty of these outrages, and not go through the farce of a trial where they know that the accused will be acquitted. They might also insist that where intimidation exists the Estates Commissioners should postpone their operations. The Government have no right to gloss over the present state of affairs. Hon. friends of mine in another place have frequently raised this question. It is the duty of the

Unionists Members to take under their protection the law-abiding people in other parts of Ireland. I noticed with pain the epithet which the Chief Secretary applied to them for taking such action. I have looked on the Chief Secretary as a man of courtesy and culture, and I could not hear without indignation the epithet which was applied to men who were merely doing their duty. I hope they will raise these questions whenever it is necessary to do so. That is the only way in which a knowledge of the condition of Ireland can be brought before the English people. I beg to put the Question standing in my name.

*Lord CLONBROCK: My Lords, coming as I do from the West of Ireland I regret—I most deeply regret—for the credit of my country that I can only confirm the description which has been given by my noble friend of the state of agitation and terrorism existing there. The noble Marquess has fully described the nature of the movement against the holders of grass farms and the object which the agitators have in view, but I wish to add that this agitation is not conducted solely against holders of farms held under the eleven months system, or against large farmers. It has been directed against men who have held the same farm for years, and against small farmers. Only the other day a woman, evidently in very humble circumstances, was summoned before the United Irish League for not surrendering her share of grazing on a farm. She agreed to surrender, but a fine of £5, which was subsequently reduced to £2, was imposed upon her for not promptly obeying the order of the League. The League holds regular courts, summons people before it, decides whether they should be allowed to work for certain persons, and regulates the whole proceedings of the country, and the League is able, owing to the state of terror that is inspired, to enforce their decrees with impunity.

To show what the power of the League is, I might mention that the other day a man who was going to Loughrea Fair put a few cattle on the land of a shopkeeper at Loughrea who was in bad odour from having refused to join the League, and in the night the cattle were daubed over with paint to show that they were boycotted and were rendered unsaleable. These cases are at one end of the scale. I will now take the other. I have had a letter put into my hands, since I came into the House, from a gentleman, a magistrate for the county, describing his experience on a journey to attend the fair at Loughrea. He stayed at an hotel over night and found difficulty in getting a car in the morning. After waiting some hours he recognised that they were boycotted. The police procured a car for him. His man was assaulted and his hat thrown into the river. He made a request for police protection, which was complied with. His man was taken by the police to his lodgings, but he was not admitted, nor could he get any lodgings at Loughrea. On the fair morning the cattle were escorted by police, and neither he nor his man could move a step without protection. The people were warned not to buy his cattle, which consequently could not be sold and had to be taken back under police escort. Such a case as is described by the writer of this letter, who is implicitly to be relied upon, shows the terrorism that exists in the country.

A personal friend of my own has the hardihood to hold a farm of which he is the owner. He has refused to sell it, and therefore has committed the unpardonable offence of being possessed of property coveted by others; he is also a very active magistrate. He has been unable to obtain shearers to shear his sheep. No one would work for him. He therefore sent them to another farm of his, seven or eight miles away; but a mob came on to the farm, assaulted the shearers, and drove the sheep into the road, at the same time scattering the wool that had been shorn. I have since seen a letter from his herd saying that they were forbidden by the League to shear or brand the sheep, and were ordered to inform the agent for the property that if he did not remove the sheep by last Saturday they would be driven out. This latter farm has a curious history. It was offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners and a provisional offer from the Estates Commissioners was accepted; but when their inspector came to make the survey, a mob suddenly appeared and drove him and everybody off the farm. What the object was I do not know, except that because they could not all get a slice of the farm they determined that nobody should have any. The inspector tried again, and was again molested, and now the commissioners have dropped the negotiations. That is an illustration of the lawless state of the country.

The same gentleman the other day was driving through the town of Athenry and left his car outside a house, when a man came up to the groom and asked him how he dared drive his master. The groom replied that he was a good master, and he therefore intended to remain in his service. The man then drew a revolver from his pocket saying to the groom, "This fires six times. We have all got them now." There is another case within my knowledge, of the agent of a friend of mine receiving a threatening letter that he would be killed if he did not give up his farm. All the graziers on his property have surrendered and the house of one has been fired into. As showing the power of the League the shopkeepers in Loughrea, acting on the orders of the League, do not now get the boxes and things that they require for their trade from his saw-mill. There has been plenty of warning of all this; yet it is not so long ago that we were told "*Redeunt Saturnia regna.*" The golden age has come back to Ireland under the auspices of His Majesty's present Government, and Ireland is quieter than it has been for 600 years, while those who asked inconvenient questions, or dragged out information conflicting with these golden dreams were stigmatised as the maligners of their country and as carrion crows. I cannot help thinking that that was an unfortunate simile, for carrion crows do not show themselves in any locality unless there is good reason for it; "wherever the carcase is there will the eagles be gathered together," but the carcases must be there first.

I cannot answer for 600 years, but I can answer for about sixty, and excepting some terrible period when crime and outrage were rife in the country, and many trembled daily for the life of their friends, I cannot recall any period when property has been so insecure and the action of the Government so supine as at present. I fully admit that steps are now being taken for the protection of property, and that prosecutions are being instituted; but what we complain of is that they were not taken in time. In the year 1905 precisely the same campaign against graziers was contemplated; but Mr. Walter Long, the then Chief Secretary, sent a large force of police into the country, and his firm attitude had the desired effect. The month of May passed off quietly. The noble Marquess did not, I think, refer to the Judge's charge in regard to the county of Galway at Spring Assizes. The Judge there said—

> "I regret to say that lawlessness in the form of boycotting and intimidation has been rife in connection with agrarian agitation, and it is of such a nature that it leaves me no option but to refer to it. There are now forty-one cases in which police protection has to be afforded. In addition there have been twenty cases of intimidation by threatening letters, and during the same period there have been eleven cases of firing into dwelling houses, some of them being within the last few days."

This was before the announcement was made of the tranquil state of Ireland. Orders had also been sent by the League to graziers, in very many cases, to surrender their farms, sometimes with the intimation that bands of men had been enrolled to drive off their stock if they did not do so. The Government surely must have known of this, and I cannot conceive how such a roseate description of the condition of the country came to be given.

My noble friend referred to the case of a man who refused to give bail and was committed to prison for three months but was released after fifteen days. The explanation given in another place was that fifteen days was an adequate punishment, the sentence having been inflicted under an old Statute of Edward III. The other day another man was summoned for a similar offence, and he said—

> "He did not care. It was only fifteen days, and King Edward III. was dead and buried."

Again, the other day, when a man was remonstrated with by a constable, and ordered to desist from driving cattle off a farm, he said he had a perfect right to do it because—

> "They had the Government at their back."

The people are firmly convinced that while the Government would repress any overt act of violence, they look with no unfavourable eye on the agitation which prompts such acts, as it may lead to the grass lands being sold by landlords at a low rate. I have received assurances from a very high quarter privately that the Government look upon intimidation as every right-minded man does, but I appeal to them to set the matter at rest and to discontinue the practice of prophesying smooth things and crying peace where there is no peace. The area of disturbance is said not to be widely extended. If it is not I do not know when we should use the phrase. Perhaps it is not to be considered wide unless agitation approaches the gloomy portals of Dublin Castle, of which we heard lately. In that case the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary might not think it an unmixed evil that those gloomy portals separated him from the stream of national life flowing outside. I appeal to His Majesty's Government to set the matter at rest, and by their action and by public announcement to express emphatically their stern disapproval and condemnation of the system of terrorism which lies like an incubus upon all classes in the country, keeping people from going about their legitimate business, and forcing them to comply with any tyrannical or unjust order which the Party of agitation may choose to issue.

Lord DENMAN: My Lords, I do not think there is anyone better qualified than the noble Marquess who initiated this discussion, and the noble Earl who has just addressed you, to raise a discussion on this Question in your Lordships' House. I do not propose, in replying to those speeches, to deal at any length with the wider questions of policy which were raised more especially by the noble Marquess. I will confine myself rather to show, by such facts and figures as I have been able to obtain, what is the state of Ireland generally at the present time, to refer to those parts of the country in which disturbances have lately occurred, and to tell the House briefly what action the Government have taken in dealing with those disturbances.

In Leinster and Munster, with the exception of a small part of King's County bordering on Tipperary, near Roscrea, and parts of County Clare, things are in a normal condition. In parts of Connaught, as Lord Clonbrock has told us, notably in the East Riding of Galway and Roscommon, there is considerable unrest and disturbance. The total number of outrages, agrarian and non-agrarian, for the first four months of 1907 was 548; for the corresponding period of 1906 it was 587, and for 1905, 555. Taking agrarian outrages alone, the number up to 29th May of this year was 139, including seventy-seven cases of threatening letters, which even when trivial are included in the Crimes Return. For the corresponding period of 1906 the number was ninety, including fifty-seven threatening letters, while for 1905 it was 125, including seventy-nine threatening letters. Therefore the House will see that, so far as the number of agrarian outrages is concerned, the condition of the country is pretty much the same as it was in the spring of 1905.

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: May I ask the noble Lord how those figures have been arrived at?

Lord DENMAN: I am afraid I cannot inform the noble Marquess. They have only just come over from Ireland. Coming to the cases of boycotting, in the first four months of 1907 the number of serious boycotting cases reported was ten, in 1906 they were seven, and in 1905 they were thirteen. At the end of April, 1907, the number of persons under constant police protection was forty-six, and those receiving protection by patrol was 154. At the same time in 1906 the numbers were forty and 165. I think it is fair to state, with regard to these cases of police protection, that many of them are cases of long standing, some of them extending over ten or twenty years.

The noble Marquess and the noble Earl who spoke last have quoted the statements of Judges in their charges to the grand juries at the recent spring assizes. I am perfectly prepared to admit that in four counties the reports of the Judges have been distinctly unsatisfactory, but I think I am right in saying that in every other county of Ireland the reports of the Judges have been eminently satisfactory. When you take this into consideration, as well as the facts and figures I have quoted, it does seem to me that there is furnished, I will not say conclusive proof, but at any rate ample justification for the statement that, generally speaking, Ireland is in a satisfactory condition at the present time.

I will now come to the question of the disturbed districts. At present those parts of the country which in our opinion can be described as disturbed are the East Riding of Galway, the County of Roscommon, parts of County Clare and County Leitrim, and in King's County the district adjoining Tipperary, Roscrea. The agitation, as both noble Lords have told us, is due especially in the case of the two first-named districts, to the grazing system. At this season of the year most of the grass lands are let for the ensuing eleven months, and these lands are generally surrounded by a number of uneconomic holdings occupied by small tenants, who have in past years made attempts to prevent the letting of the grass lands, in the hope of accelerating their purchase by the Estates Commssioners or by the Congested Districts Board.

This year the agitation against the grazing system has resulted in a determined attempt to force the surrender of grazing land. When the tenants have refused to surrender, in many instances disorderly crowds have assembled and driven cattle off the land, but without any attempt at injury. In the other districts, in County Clare and County Leitrim and in King's County, from information which the Government have received, the grazing system has hitherto played a comparatively subordinate part in the disturbances. I have here the details of the cases in these parts of Ireland which are said to have been the principal cause of the disturbances. I do not think I need take up the time of your Lordships by quoting them, with the exception of the one to which the noble Marquess alluded—I refer to the case of Mr. Luttrell. Mr. Luttrell is the holder of a grazing farm in King's County, and his stock on two occasions had been driven off. In the same locality the stock on the farms of three graziers had been driven off on a day when the police had been drafted into Roscrea. Although in our opinion the driving of cattle cannot, of itself, be considered a crime of a very serious nature——

LORD ASHBOURNE: Will the noble Lord kindly repeat that sentence?

LORD DENMAN: I said that although in our opinion the driving of cattle cannot, of itself, be considered a crime of a very serious nature——

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: It would be in England.

LORD DENMAN: It is a crime, but hardly a crime of a serious nature. Although, as I say, in our opinion the driving of cattle cannot, of itself, be considered a crime of a very serious nature, nevertheless the disturbance in these districts is such as to give grave anxiety to the Government of Ireland. In the case of Galway and Roscommon, where the disturbance is more widely spread and I believe more acutely felt, we think that we know what the cause of the agitation is. There are grounds for believing that in those districts a legitimate grievance does exist, and if the recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed for the purpose of investigating the question of the congested districts are such as to hold out the hope of removing, at any rate in part, the cause of this alleged grievance, the Government will not be slow to act upon them. At the same time we do deplore—we very deeply deplore—this agitation, not only for the reasons which the noble Lords have given, but also because in our opinion it must be entirely fruitless. It may seriously retard or even defeat any attempt which may be made later on to deal with this question; and we have no option but to administer the law with firmness and decision.

As to what has been the action of the Government in these disturbed areas additional police have been drafted into the East Riding of Galway for occasional service as required, and thirty-five men have been added to the police force stationed at Athenry. In the County of Roscommon thirty-five additional police are at present stationed in different parts of the county. In these two counties fifteen prosecutions, affecting 127 persons, have been ordered, a number of the accused have been returned for trial, and other cases are still pending, In County Clare an extra force of fifty-six police is at present stationed in four of the police districts. In County Leitrim an extra police force has been sent to the disturbed area which now appears to be settling down. In King's County twenty-six police have been drafted into the county and are stationed on Luttrell's farm. In the disturbed counties proceedings have been taken in twenty-eight cases and the number of persons prosecuted is 189. I hope, my Lords, that this statement will serve to refute the suggestion of the noble Marquess, Lord Londonderry, that the Government are engaged in encourgaing intimidation and lawlessness in Ireland. We in this House are always accustomed to hear im state his case with fairness and moderation, and I confess I was surprised to hear from him, as I think I did, a suggestion that the Chief Secretary himself was engaged in encouraging intimidation and lawlessness in that country.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: What I said was that the action of the Chief Secretary had given the people in the country the right to say that they had the Government at their back, and the Chief Secretary had never contradicted that statement. I am glad to hear that the Government are taking these steps. What I said was that these people made the statement that they had the Government at their back.

LORD DENMAN: I am glad to hear from the noble Marquess that he does not hold that view of the Chief Secretary's conduct. In conclusion I wish to say that we have no desire whatever to minimise the seriousness of the disturbances in these particular districts. Equally it does seem to me to be inexpedient to over-estimate the character and extent of these occurrences. Surely it is obvious that nothing can be so congenial to persons engaged in agitation as that notice should be taken of their sayings and doings by Parliament, and that they should be commented on and quoted in the country. It is in the interests of good government that no exaggerated idea of the extent or importance of the disturbances which have occurred should be conveyed through whatever medium to the people of Ireland.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, as one who lives in Ireland I feel that the House will expect that I should say something on this matter. The noble Marquess said he did not regard this as a Party question, and I hope in what I say I shall not be considered as wishing in any way to make Party capital out of the present state of lawlessness in the country. The fact that there is lawlessness in Ireland has often been drawn attention to, and it must be remembered that the forces which direct and organise defiance of law and order, and especially agrarian outrage, always exist in Ireland, The movement begins in a small way, but the authorities at first ignore it, and notwithstanding that attention is drawn to the matter in Parliament and in the Press nothing of any importance is done. The Ministers responsible as a rule take the matter very easily and do not credit the statements of those who live in Ireland, whose business is carried on there, and who have a stake in the country. Suddenly his Majesty's Ministers wake up one fine morning to find that parts of the country are almost in a state of revolution, and that unless they are prepared to allow this revolution to go on it is necessary to have police outside Court houses armed with rifles and ball cartridges, and also to provide police to camp out on land herding castle. That is what is going on now. I ask if it is a dignified proceeding that the officers of the law in Ireland should be so occupied on farms. The noble Lord in his answer actually justified cattle driving——

LORD DENMAN: I deny that I justified it.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: The noble Lord described it as a crime not of a serious nature. Let us consider what this cattle driving is. A man takes a grass farm for eleven months, paying rent, and because the people living around would like to have the grazing land divided among them they turn his cattle on to the road, and then shouting and yelling they drive the animals at full pace to near the owner's house, and there leave them, and this in a district where it is impossible to get people to assist in putting the cattle back. Is that not a crime of a serious nature? The United Irish League have had their eyes on these grass lands for the last two or three years, and have found out that to drive cattle from the owner's land and to leave them to wander for miles over the country is not a serious crime, and they encourage the practice in the hope that the grazing lands may become derelict and be purchased by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners. This to those unacquainted with Ireland seems a charmingly simple plan of campaign.

Let me now state the areas where disorder at present exists. They are Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, King's County and West Cork—nine counties in all; and signs are not wanting that the agitation is spreading to Queen's County and to Longford. This is hardly a satisfactory state of affairs, notwithstanding that the noble Lord who replied on behalf of the Government described the condition of Ireland as normal with considerable "unrest" in parts. We know perfectly well that this unrest is exactly like a gangrene in the little finger of the human hand; unless it is cut out it spreads to the whole body and involves loss of life. That is the reason why we have drawn attention to the matter. The noble Lord said that there were 548 agrarian outrages in Ireland. The number of these outrages depends upon how they are ordered to be reported by the police. I have not the honour of a seat on either Front Bench and therefore I do not think there is much harm in my saying that. We know perfectly well that when the police have orders they report agrarian outrages, and that when they do not receive orders they sit quiet, and small blame to them.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): As I shall have to speak later I would like to ask the noble Earl whether he means to suggest that the police have at present orders not to report outrages?

*THE EARL OF MAYO: I did not suggest anything of the kind. I simply stated that we believe in Ireland that the police have instructions to report or not to report outrages. That may be perfectly wrong, but it is the belief, and I have lived in Ireland many years. I would like to draw your Lordships' attention to a case that came under my own notice. I was going to Mallaranny in county Mayo the other day for change of air. At Castrea station I noticed the station to be full of police. I subsequently ascertained that that morning about 200 men, under the command of Mr. Gamble, Assistant Inspector-General, and County Inspector Gray, Roscommon, and five district inspectors, proceeded to Ballymoe, where Mr. Payne lives. This is the account of their operations—

> "Here they were met by another force of Galway police. In a short time thirty cattle were driven out, the police surrounding them. They proceeded to within half a mile of Fohenagh where they were met by about twenty women and children, who set up a mournful cry. The police afterwards drove the cattle on the farm, where they now remain. The whole force is at present located on Fohenagh farm, and the district is in an excited state."

That is where the police are camping out. Then in County Mayo, on a Saturday night, near Ballina, about 100 cattle and sheep on a grazing farm not far away were driven during the night and on Sunday morning were found roaming about the roads. Some ill-feeling had been caused by the tenant renewing his eleven months take of the farm.

I should like to call your Lordships' attention to an Answer which was given by the Chief Secretary in the other House to a Question put to him by Lord John Joicey-Cecil. The Chief Secretary was asked in this Question if he would state how many of the persons who attacked Mr. Payne's farm, near Ballintubber, on the 10th May were employees of the Congested Districts Board and of the Estates Commissioners, and whether he proposed to take action in the matter. Mr. Birrell replied—

> "I am informed that about seventy-five labourers who were temporarily in the employment of the Congested Districts Board, and about thirty employed by the Estates Commissioners, were members of the crowd, some of whom drove the cattle off Mr. Payne's farm. This fact has already been brought to the notice of the Departments mentioned. Twelve persons are being prosecuted for unlawful assembly on the occasion, and the case is *sub judice*."

I hope that these men who amuse themselves by driving cattle will not be again employed by these Departments. These are people employed by Government Departments, and yet with a gay heart and in a free-and-easy way they take part in these disturbances. This incident, I think, throws a little light on what is going on in Ireland.

The opinion of local Nationalists as to the duty of popular justices in such cases is well exemplified in the following extract from a letter published in the *Roscommon Herald* on 18th May—

> "Dear Sir,—If there had been two more Nationalist J.P.'s in Elphin on Wednesday the Crown would have got a fall in their first coercion prosecution. I am informed that the local leaders sent out urgent whips. A prepaid telegram was sent to the Chairman of the Boyle District Council and another was sent to him on Wednesday, but he did not reply. It was the people made him, and they can unmake him."

There is no doubt that noble Lords in this House will take for granted what we who come from Ireland say with regard to the unrest in that country. The English people, however, have been deceived in the matter, and I would like to ask how much longer are responsible Ministers going on deluding themselves and the public. I admit that Ulster is quiet and that the district in which I live is quiet—thank God for it—but my point is that if you do not stop this now it will spread all over the country. Ireland was peaceful when Mr. John Morley was Chief Secretary, and I do not see why the present Liberal Government should not be able to manage to maintain peace in these districts just the same as Mr. Morley did.

It would not be difficult to deal with the disorder without exceptional legislation or calling out the military. Let the Government restore the regulation providing that the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners would deal with no land that was made the subject of any kind of intimidation, and let the convictions of guilty persons be secured by change of venue, and the agitation and rule of the United Irish League would cease and an end would be put to the untold misery caused to all who have anything to do with it or come under its ban. Under the rule of the United Irish League business and trade come to a standstill, friends view each other with suspicion, and a dread of evil comes over the land. Moreover, if this system of cattle driving is not suppressed, there is a grave danger of Ireland's most important industry of stock-raising being ruined. I hope, therefore, the Government will take the bull by the horns and put a stop to the ruffianly proceedings now going on. What is wanted in Ireland is law and order and not too much legislation.

Lord BARRYMORE: My Lords, the discussion up to the present has chiefly dealt with Connaught and the Western portion of Ireland. It is not alone the west of Ireland that is disturbed. The county of Cork, in which I live, appears to be in a complete state of peace according to the view of His Majesty's Government. I am sorry to inform the noble Lord opposite that that county is by no means in so satisfactory a state as he appears to imagine. In the western portion of the county of Cork the greatest difficulty has been experienced for some time past in collecting rents.

On a small estate near Berehaven the landlord's offer to sell at nineteen years purchase was not alone rejected by the tenants, but they refused to pay their arrears of four years rent, and only last week 300 police had to accompany the sheriff to execute writs. I am glad that in this most recent case in County Cork the Government appear to have realised the danger of the situation and to have fully supported the sheriff in the execution of his duty. This small army went down to the estate and a settlement was, I believe, come to, but there was a regular battle royal; resistance was made by men and women; stones, mud, water, and every sort of thing was thrown at the sheriff and at the attacking party. One man was seriously injured and is now in hospital, whilst one of the defending party who struck him with a stone is in jail. This certainly does not look as if there was a peaceful state of things in that county.

In the central part of the county, around Macroom, things are in even a worse state. A well-known land agent in the city of Cork who acts for landlords in that district recently sent a writ for the non-payment of rent for service to a civil bill officer at Macroom, and got the following reply—

> "Sir,—Owing to the disturbed state of the district at present, I do not think it safe for me to serve writs for rent."

Two similar letters were produced in evidence in the King's Bench, Dublin, at the end of April last from other civil bill officers in the district. One gentleman writes—

> "Being unable to get rent we were obliged to submit to the tenants' own terms and sell at a very low price. The district is in a terrible condition, and it is practically impossible to get rents there. Tenants absolutely refuse to pay unless you sell at their terms."

The result is that the landlords, burdened with very heavy charges, are forced to sell at a loss. What is worse, these unfortunate landlords will not get the purchase money for five or six years, and meanwhile they will be paid only 2½ per cent. interest on the amount, while they will have to pay 5 or 6 per cent. on the charges on their property.

In the same district an eviction took place for non-payment of rent and a caretaker with two policemen was placed in charge. The house was attacked by a mob of 150 people, and the result was that the police and the caretaker had to get out by a back door. They succeeded in retiring to the police barracks, where this wretched caretaker remained for twenty-four hours before they could smuggle him back to Cork. A week or two later another caretaker went down, accompanied by fifty police. They took possession of the house and occupied it that night. The house was again attacked by the mob, but the police were afraid to take any active steps in resisting, because they were afraid that if they did they would probably run the risk of being summoned and tried before a jury in Cork, and that the consequences would be very severe. They also feared that they would not get the support and protection of His Majesty's Government. That caretaker was again withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CREWE: May I ask the noble Lord's authority for the statement that the police took that view.

LORD BARRYMORE: That was the information I obtained from the caretaker and the people who were mixed up in the case. The fact remains that the police made no attempt to attack the mob beyond firing one or two shots through the roof of the thatched house in which they were. Then in March there was the case of a postman who was going down to that neighbourhood with a number of letters purporting to contain writs and processes. The postman was waylaid by disguised men and relieved of a number of letters which had significant marks indicating the nature of their contents. The postman resisted the attack but was unable to save the messages from confiscation.

Then on 4th April the police went to arrest a man who was known to the police as having been engaged in one of these outrages. He was working in a field with some others. The attempt to serve the writ was resisted, and a fight ensued, and the police, as far as I can make out, went off without their prisoner. One of the men was struck on the head with a truncheon and the result was that he brought a summons against the policeman for assault. The summons was tried before seven magistrates on 27th May, and after a long trial the magistrates decided by a majority that they would send the policeman for trial at Cork. The chairman, who was the resident magistrate and an exceedingly able and capable officer, gave judgment in these words—

> "They had given the case considerable attention, and he regretted to say they were by no means unanimous. The majority had decided to return the case for trial. Speaking for himself, he had no hesitation in emphatically dissenting from the decision of the majority of the Court, and he thought the administration of the law in the county of Cork, and particularly in this neighbourhood, stood a bad chance in the future if a policeman with a warrant going to effect the arrest of an offender were openly resisted and treated in this way. It boded very ill for the maintenance of law and order in the county.

These cases show that there are places besides Connaught in which the law is broken and where the country is in a very serious state. These cases have nothing to do with evicted tenants, and such matters as these cannot be remedied by any Bill introduced by His Majesty's Government to reinstate those tenants.

The cases which I have laid before your Lordships show that throughout parts of the country there is an organised determination on the part of lawless people to band together to defy the law. They show, moreover, the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of getting the officers of the law to do their duty, and, more serious still, that magistrates themselves are not to be trusted to carry out the law which they have sworn to administer. I hope that before it is too late the Government will realise the state of Ireland, and endeavour to do something to put things upon a better footing.

*LORD DUNBOYNE: My Lords, I happen to reside in County Clare, and can testify that the state of that county is not quite as peaceful as the noble Lord opposite, who spoke on behalf of His Majesty's Government, would wish the House to imagine. Within the last two months there have been no less than seven cases of shooting besides other outrages, and those who say that the outrages are not serious would probably change their opinion if they could place themselves in the position of the unfortunate peasants.

I will state to your Lordships a few of the outrages that have been committed. On the night of 23rd March, at Scariff, the house of a farmer named John Carroll was fired into. His daughter was struck by the broken glass through which the shot passed. The outrage is attributed to a local land dispute. Again, at Crossagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus, in the county of Clare, the house of a man named Christopher Boland was fired into. He was in charge of an evicted farm. On 16th April, in Kilbogin district, a man named Frank M'Auliffe, while returning from Ennis, was fired at and received a gunshot wound in the shoulder. But, as these people were not killed, perhaps the offence is not considered a serious one.

Cranagher House, midway between Ennis and Tulla, belonging to General Sir Bindon Blood, was recently the scene of a dastardly outrage. Men broke into the house and in several of the rooms started fires on the floors with hay saturated with paraffin oil. A hay barn, which contained about ten or twelve tons of hay, was also set on fire and destroyed, while attempts were made to destroy the herd's house. All the indications pointed to a deliberately planned outrage. A claim was made at Ennis Quarter Sessions on 16th April by Sir Bindon Blood for the malicious injuries to his property. The agent of the property, in giving evidence, said he had received a threatening letter in connection with the farm. This threatening letter contained these passages—

> "Sir,—As a member of the Sacred Society of Clooney I would draw your attention to the state of the Cranagher Farm at the present time. In order to avoid murder and bloodshed we hope you will be good enough not to give the farm in question to any one man; more than that, you will not give said farm through your own hands . . . as we will not take it except through the Estates Commissioners. . . . No other measures will do us. Any who becomes tenant of said farm will meet an untimely death. . . . No protection will save you from an unexpected death if you make tenant of any one man in Cranagher. . . . A sudden death awaits you if you do not act fair, and you will be responsible before God for the death of any man you make tenant of."

This letter is signed by the "Captain of the Sacred Society, Clooney." Compensation was recovered in that case.

I have details of another case which happened in the Corofin district. A respectable farmer named Michael O'Connor, who resides at Shanballysallagh, was, it seems, on a visit to a friend's house, about a mile and a half distant from his home, on the night of March 21st. He left for home at half-past ten o'clock, and had only gone a short distance when a shot was fired at him from behind the roadside wall. One grain of the shot struck O'Connor on the calf of one leg. O'Connor ran as hard as he could towards home, when six or seven more shots were discharged after him, none of which, however, struck him. He subsequently reported the matter, and the county inspector and district inspector visited the place. No arrests were made. The outrage is said to be attributed to Mr. O'Connor's having taken portion of a large farm in the district lately, over the division of which there was some local feeling.

Then on 3rd May there was another shooting outrage in Ruane district, the victim being John Murphy, a young man of the farming class. He was on horseback, and on his return home, within three or four hundred yards of the village of Ruane, two gunshots were fired at him from behind a hedge. Though badly wounded he galloped to Ruane and reported the outrage at the police barracks. As late as 23rd May the house of a farmer living at Fermoyle was fired into, but fortunately without injury to the occupants. One revolver bullet lodged in the window frame, and a second in a door. The county and district inspectors visited the scene, and as the result of their inquiries two young men were arrested. This, however, is of very little use, as the unfortunate peasants are so intimidated that it is impossible to procure evidence. The only government in these districts is that of the United Irish League, and the people know that if they attempt to do anything contrary to the orders of the League the probability is that they will be made severely to suffer. They know that they can get no protection from the properly constituted authorities, and that makes them unwilling to come forward.

There was a case last September within a mile of my house. A most respectable young man was picking nuts on a Sunday afternoon, when a man came up to him and drew a revolver. He said, "Now I have got you," and fired two bullets into him. One went through his neck and the other through his thigh. The young man struggled with his assailant to get the revolver, but fell down exhausted through loss of blood. The man then jumped on him and deliberately fired two more bullets into him while he was lying on the ground. The young man told me himself that pressure was brought to bear upon him, and that if it had not been for the parish priest he would have been obliged to say he did not know the man who assaulted him, although he knew him intimately. That shows the state of terror which exists in the country, and the fact that the League alone in that part of the country can enforce the law, and the law they enforce is their own law. I do not speak for the landlords. They are to a great extent immune, most of them being quite capable of taking care of themselves. But I do earnestly plead for deliverance for the poor tenants and farmers, who groan under the terrible oppression of the League. There can be no real happiness nor prosperity among the Irish people so long as the law of the United Irish League is allowed to rule the country.

Moved, "That the debate stand adjourned."—(*Viscount Hill.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 4th June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—Mr. W. Howell Davies, Mr. Joseph Nolan, Mr. W. W. Rutherford, Sir Albert Spicer, and Mr. D. A. Thomas were nominated Members of the Select Committee on the London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Standing Orders. Resolutions reported from the Select Committee—

"That, in the case of the Selsey Water Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Alton Military Hospital [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to:—Irish Tobacco Bill, without Amendment; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to:—Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [Lords]; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove doubts as to the validity of a certain Decree, dated thirtieth October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, of the High Court of Justice (Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division), dissolving the Marriage solemnised on the sixteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, between William Howard Murphy Grimshaw and Mary Evalina Julia Murphy Grimshaw, then Mary Evalina Julia Woodward, Spinster, and to confirm the said Decree." [Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen in connection with their electricity undertaking; and for other purposes." [Aberdeen Corporation Bill [Lords], now Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to extend the limits of supply of the Wisbech Waterworks Company; and to confer further powers upon that Company." [Wisbech Water Bill [Lords.]

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; to be read a second time.

Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [Lords]; Wisbech Water Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

CONGO FREE STATE.

Petition from Eccles, for protection of the Native Races; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Campbeltown; and Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petitions against: From Great Crosby; Haydock; Little Woolton and Childwall; Rainford; Southport; and Speke; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from Eccles, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Alva, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against: From Alexandra Park; Bearsted; Bournemouth; Cambridge (three); Carshalton; Chantry; Eakring; Lewes; Newark; Oxford; Ryde; Watford; and Wood Green (two); to lie upon the Table.

OLD AGE PENSIONS BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).

Petition from Wolstanton and Burslem, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

Petition from Islington, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Boston, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).

Return [presented 31st May] to be printed. [No. 174.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3810 and 3811 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TURKEY (No. 1, 1907).

Copy presented, of Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of South Eastern Europe [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TURKEY (No. 2, 1907).

Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Increase of the Turkish Customs Duties [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TURKEY (No. 3, 1907).

Copy presented, of Despatches from the British Adviser on the Macedonian Financial Commission [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd June; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Maximum Salaries of Assistant Clerks.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that there are several senior assistant clerks in the various Government Departments who have already reached their maximum of £150 per annum, whose ages range from forty years and upwards, and who have little prospect of promotion, he can hold out any hope of conceding personal allowances, so that these persons may receive more than £150 in each year.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The scale was fixed as appropriate to the duties, and it is not reasonable to expect a grant of personal allowances merely because the maximum is attained in due course.

Criminal Appeal Bill—The Grand Jury System.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, in the event of the Criminal Appeal Bill becoming law this Session, and seeing that the Bill gives prisoners increased security against punishment for wrongful conviction, he will consider whether it will be necessary in future to send indictments before a grand jury, and the question of introducing a Bill to put an end to the grand jury system.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) The grand jury system provides a safeguard against the oppressive exercise of the right to prefer an indictment against an accused person. Its abolition would be a serious change in the administration of the criminal law, which would not be justified by the creation of a right of appeal in favour of persons who have already been tried and convicted. I do not see that any case for the proposed change has been established.

Appointment to Headmastership of Dublin Metropolitan School of Art.

MR. GWYNN (Galway): To ask the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture (Ireland) whether the headmastership of the Metropolitan School of Art in Dublin is still vacant, if so, when an appointment will be made; and whether he will endeavour to recover and apply to purposes of the art school the sums which have lapsed to the Treasury by the prolonged refusal to fill this post.

(*Answered by Mr. T. W. Russell.*) An appointment is about to be made to the headmastership of the Metropolitan School of Art. The suggestion contained in the latter part of the Question is, I am afraid, impracticable. The unexpended balance of salaries must, in the usual course, be surrendered to the Exchequer.

Horse Breeding in Ireland.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture (Ireland) if the Department is still in possession of the hackney stallions handed over to it by the Congested Districts Board some years ago; if so, whether he will state if these horses are now used for breeding purposes in Ireland; and, if they are, whether the action of the Department in this respect has the approval of the Council of Agriculture and of the committee appointed by the Department to advise in matters connected with horse breeding in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. T. W. Russell.*) Twelve hackney stallions were transferred to the Department by the Congested Districts Board at the close of 1903. Seven of these animals were sold early in 1904 in England and one has since died, leaving four still retained. Two of these have been located by the Department in remote parts of county Donegal and two in county Galway. It is intended, as opportunity arises through the purchase of sires of a more suitable type, to dispose of the hackney stallions in question. On the recommendation of the departmental advisory committee on horse-breeding stallions of the hackney breed have always been declared by the Department to be ineligible for registration under the general horse-breeding scheme, and accordingly none of the four hackney stallions at present in their possession are used by the Department in connection with that scheme. The action of the Department in excluding hackneys from the operations of the horse-breeding scheme formed the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Council of Agriculture held on 13th February, 1902, when a resolution approving of the policy of the Department in this respect was adopted by a large majority.

Children Charged at Metropolitan Police Courts.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what were the numbers of boys and girls, aged seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen years, respectively, who were charged and summoned at the metropolitan police courts during the twelve months ended 1st May, 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) It would be impossible to give the age of children who have merely been summoned, and many of whom have not been in police custody at all. The ages of children who have been apprehended and charged are recorded, and, so far as they are concerned, it would be possible to give the Return; but its preparation would involve a long search through the records of each of the police courts, and I am not prepared without strong reasons to impose this additional labour on the already hard-worked officers of the police courts. The hon. Member will find, in Table XIII. of the Criminal Statistics, particulars of the number of children under twelve years and between twelve and sixteen who are convicted after apprehension. I may supplement that information by the following figures for the Metropolitan Police District for the year 1905 (those for 1906 are not yet completed):—Youthful offenders convicted summarily of indictable offences, under twelve years of age, 175; between twelve and sixteen, 777. Youthful offenders apprehended and convicted of non-indictable offences, under twelve years of age, 52; between twelve and sixteen, 1,295. The hon. Member will bear in mind that these figures relate to a district with a population exceeding 6,000,000.

Inebriate Reformatories for the London District.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the London County Council have determined to terminate the arrangement which they entered into in 1904 with the

National Institution for Inebriates, under which inebriates committed from London were sent to their reformatories on condition that the more hopeful class of cases should be transferred to the Council's reformatory at Farmfield; whether the effect of this decision will be that London magistrates will be deprived of the opportunity of committing inebriates to inebriate reformatories, except as regards a small number of strictly selected cases eligible for Farmfield; and what steps he proposes to take to render possible the continued committal of London inebriates to reformatories in suitable cases, so that the Inebriates Act may not be made largely inoperative so far as London is concerned.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) My attention has been drawn to the decision of the London County Council to discontinue their present provision for the reception of all classes of female inebriates and to restrict their work to a few selected cases eligible for Farmfield, and there is no doubt that if this policy is maintained the London magistrates will be deprived of the opportunity to commit female inebriates to reformatories save as regards a few isolated cases. I am about to communicate with the Council upon this important matter.

Age for Exercise of Franchise in Foreign Countries.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has yet been able to ascertain at what age the right to vote in parliamentary elections is conferred upon citizens of the principal foreign countries.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The following information has been collected for me by the Foreign Office from His Majesty's representatives abroad. The age at which persons, who are otherwise qualified, are entitled to exercise the franchise is in a large number of countries either twenty-one or twenty-five years. In the following countries twenty-one years is the age: Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Roumania, Servia, Sweden, United States of America, Wurtemberg. In the following countries the age is twenty-five years: Baden (Baden Diet), Bavaria, Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Germany (Empire), Hesse-Darmstadt (Hessian Diet), Luxemburg (Chamber of Deputies), Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain (Cortes), Saxony (Landtag). In Mexico and Uruguay married men otherwise qualified may exercise the franchise at eighteen years of age, unmarried men at the ages of twenty-one and twenty in the two countries respectively. In Hungary and Switzerland the age is twenty; in Spain, for the election of senators, it is twenty-three; in Austria and the Kingdom of Prussia it is twenty-four; and in Belgium, in the case of direct election to the Senate, and in Denmark it is thirty.

Site for New Post Office at Bolton.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has acquired a site yet for the proposed new post office at Bolton; and, if not, what steps he is taking to secure one.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The matter is under consideration.

Application of Postman Langworthy, of Tiverton, for Transfer.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that Postman Langworthy, of Tiverton, applied for transfer to another walk, and quoted the regulations saying that rural postmen on arduous walks have the first claim to better walks, either town or rural, in the same district, and that not only has he been refused permission to transfer, but has been informed in the Secretary's name there is no such regulation, although it is quoted on page 24 of the Tweedmouth Committee's Report; and whether he will make inquiries into this case with the view to granting Mr. Langworthy's request.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is recognised that rural postmen on arduous walks may reasonably be allowed a first claim to better walks in the same district, other considerations being equal. This point was by no means overlooked in the present case, but was in fact pressed with a serious desire to grant Langworthy's request, if possible. There are reasons, however, which make it undesirable that he should be transferred to the duty he asks for; and, as it appears that there is nothing very arduous in his present duties, his request was refused. The reference to the regulation seems to have been given under a misapprehension; but this in no way affected the decision.

Acting Head Postman D. Dixon, of Dublin—Claims for Promotion.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that Mr. Dixon, of Dublin, has been repeatedly passed over for promotion to the rank of assistant inspector of postmen, but is constantly called upon to perform the duty as substitute without extra pay; and whether he will take steps to see that Mr. Dixon is promoted to the next vacancy.

(*Answered by Mr Sydney Buxton.*) It is the case that Acting Head Postman D. Dixon has frequently been employed without extra pay as a substitute assistant inspector under the direct supervision of a superior officer. In view of his seniority, it is not considered desirable to deprive him of the opportunities thus afforded of qualifying for advancement, although under the rules he does not receive extra remuneration on such occasions. I can only say that his claims and qualifications for promotion have always been and will still be carefully considered in connection with vacancies on the higher class.

Continuous Discharge Books Issued to Seamen.

MR. J. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the number of continuous discharge books issued to seamen since the scheme was instituted; the number of new discharge books issued during 1906, distinguishing the number issued to men going to sea for the first time, together with their ratings; and the number of books of deserters, etc., now in the custody of the Board of Trade; and the number received and returned to seamen during 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The total number of continuous discharge books issued up to 31st March, 1907, was 418,917. The number of new discharge books, including renewals, issued during 1906 was 41,463. The number of books of deserters, etc., now in the custody of the Board of Trade is over 35,000, and the numbers received and returned during 1906 were 16,959 and 8,307 respectively. The work and cost of ascertaining the number of books issued in 1906 to men going to sea for the first time, and the ratings of those men, would be so considerable that I regret that I cannot supply the information on those points for which my hon. friend asks.

La Fiesta Mine.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the fruitless efforts of some Maltese shareholders in the American Exploration Mining Company of San Francisco to obtain information about La Fiesta Mine; and whether he will direct the British Consul for the district to find out whether such mine exists, and to send a report on the subject.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I am afraid it is not practicable to instruct British consuls to make inquiries on behalf of individual shareholders in foreign companies in order to correct or supplement the information given by the companies themselves.

Special Service Men in the Navy.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state what is the number of men now in the navy under the short-service system, and how many were recruited during the year 1906; will he also state what is the highest rating that a man enlisted under this system can attain without passing over to the continuous service, and how many short-service men have reached such highest rating since the introduction of the system; and how many men enlisted under the short service have passed over into the continuous service.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) (1) The numbers of special-service men borne on the 25th March last were:—Seamen, 1,324; stokers, 3,645; total, 4,969. (2) The numbers recruited during the year 1906 were:—Special-service seamen, 527; special-service stokers, 2,329; total, 2,856. (3) Leading seaman and stoker, 1st class, respectively. (4) Special-service seamen, none. Special-service stokers, five. (5) The number of transfers from special-service to continuous service up to 31st December last were:—seamen, 58; stokers, 37; total, 95.

Scottish Schools for Teaching Junior Students.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will give the names of the schools selected for teaching junior students, and the reasons why these have been chosen in preference to others making application.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) A list of the schools in question will be included in the Report on the training of teachers which will be issued shortly. It is not possible to state in detail in answer to a Question the considerations which have guided the Department in making a decision in each case, but generally speaking those schools have been accepted which gave promise, either from past successes, or from the undertakings now given to provide a sufficiently qualified staff and suitable equipment, of being in a position to give a complete five years' course of secondary instruction to pupils who have reached the stage of the qualifying examination (Article 29 of the Code).

Messrs. Davidson and Company, of Belfast, and Trade Unions.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the firm of Davidson and Company, Limited, Sirocco Works, Belfast, insist upon all men when entering their employment signing an agreement to cancel memberships with any labourers' society or of any union of which they are members, and that they shall not join any trade union while in the employ of that firm; and whether he will take such action as will prevent any repetition of such action in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) I have no information upon the subject of this Question. The matter is not one which falls within my province.

The Patents Bill and Patents worked Abroad.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill will in any way interfere with or override the provisions of the Patents and Designs Bill now before a Standing Committee of the House, having regard especially to the clauses in the latter Bill relating to the revocation of patents worked abroad, and to the procedure thereon.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) No, Sir. It is intended, before the Consolidation Bill is passed, to incorporate in it the provisions of the amending Bill.

British Shipping Trading to South Africa.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total tonnage of British shipping actually trading to South Africa in the years from 1902 to 1906 inclusive; what percentage of that tonnage was chartered to American firms in those years; and what percentage of the total tonnage owned by British South African lines was lying idle in each year.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The following table gives the particulars asked for in the first part of the Question. I am unable to give the further information which the hon. Member desires. Statement showing the net tonnage of British vessels, including their repeated voyages, that entered and cleared at the ports of the United Kingdom from and to British South Africa in each of the years from 1902 to 1906 inclusive;—

Entered from British South Africa.

Year.	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1902 -	472	639,958	640,430	2,137	71,293	73,430	2,609	711,251	713,860
1903 -	2,499	775,226	777,725	2,334	105,574	107,908	4,833	880,800	885,633
1904 -	1,186	819,338	820,524	1,782	43,987	45,769	2,968	863,325	866,293
1905 -	—	735,143	735,143	—	1,938	1,938	—	737,081	737,081
1906 -	—	726,930	726,930	—	23,849	23,849	—	750,779	750,779
Cleared to British South Africa.									
1902 -	125,205	1,013,736	1,138,941	2,124	84,545	86,660	127,329	1,098,281	1,224,610
1903 -	53,986	1,226,078	1,320,064	—	66,253	66,253	53,986	1,332,331	1,386,317
1904 -	33,817	1,096,951	1,130,768	—	45,804	45,804	33,817	1,142,755	1,176,572
1905 -	12,558	819,844	832,402	60	22,434	22,494	12,618	842,278	854,896
1906 -	17,306	678,767	696,073	—	8,322	8,322	17,306	687,089	704,395

Channel Islands Shipping Laws.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the authorities of Guernsey and Jersey have yet passed into law the detailed suggestions prepared by the Board of Trade with a view to the assimilation of the shipping law of the Channel Islands to that of this country, in respect of certificates of competency, safety, and inquiries into shipping casualties.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) It is proposed to hold a meeting with the insular authorities at the Board of Trade early next month to deal with points in the Board's memorandum on which discussion has been found to be desirable. There will be no avoidable delay, but the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Acts are long and complicated, and their application to the Channel Islands, and the provision of the necessary machinery, must occupy some time. In the meanwhile the Guernsey Bill, to which I referred in my Answer on the 19th March last, has received the approval of the King in Council.

Gambling Operations in American Cotton.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that, owing to international gambling operations in the United States and in Great Britain in options and futures of American cotton, its price has been artificially raised to over 7d. per pound on the Liverpool Exchange and a corner for the next few months established; and, if so, what steps does His Majesty's Government intend to take in order to safeguard the Lancashire cotton industry as well as the masses of this country in the future from advances caused by international gambling operations in fictitious raw materials through option and future contracts.

(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I have nothing to add to the Answer given on the 20th of March to a somewhat similar Question of the hon. Member by my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade.†

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Cordite.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Board have any official information showing that the explosions in the case of the American cruiser "Maine," the Brazilian battleship "Aguidaban," the Japanese battleship "Mikasa," and the French battleship "Iena," were due to spontaneous explosion of smokeless or nitro-powders; and whether, in the cases of the spontaneous explosions of cordite in the "Revenge" some years ago and in "Fox" last year, a quantity of cordite was found to be in a very deteriorated condition.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): It would be manifestly improper for me to make any statement in regard to the foreign battleships in question; and as regard the second part of the Question the reply is in the negative.

MR. BELLAIRS: Would it not be proper for the right hon. Gentleman to answer the Question, seeing that a Commission has already reported, and the Report has been published in the Press?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I do not think so.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the date of the spontaneous explosion of a six-inch cordite cartridge in the magazine of the "Fox" last year; whether it was subsequently found that a quantity of the cordite was in a deteriorated condition; and whether he can afford any information as to the name of the maker of the cordite and its age.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The date was 31st October. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the negative, but cordite stowed in the same magazine was destroyed as a precautionary measure. The cordite in question was eight years old. There is no reason to suppose that the ignition was due to any defect in manufacture, and it is not therefore considered desirable to give the name of the maker.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 834–5.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Was not the explosion due to the deterioration of the cordite? If not, what was the cause?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It is supposed that the cause was high temperature acting on a weak spot in the cartridge in question.

Mr. COWAN (Surrey, Guildford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many of our fifty-one battleships, twenty-eight armoured cruisers, and seventy-six unarmoured cruisers have refrigerating apparatus for their magazines in order to prevent the risk of deterioration to cordite which is caused by high temperature.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Ships at present under construction are being fitted with magazine cooling arrangements, and steps are being taken to equip ships on tropical stations with apparatus of this description at once. The remaining ships will be fitted as the necessary machinery is delivered.

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many cases of the spontaneous explosion of cordite in magazines occurred last year; whether the magazine which exploded at Woolwich on the 11th February last contained a large quantity of cordite; and whether he can lay the results of the investigation into this explosion upon the Table, or indicate their purport to the House.

Mr. HALDANE: There was no explosion last year in any magazine under the control of the War Office. The magazine which exploded on 11th February last contained various explosives including a small amount of cordite. It is not considered expedient in the interests of the public service to make known the results of the investigation.

Mr. BELLAIRS asked whether there were not two explosions in magazines under the India Office.

Mr. HALDANE said that was quite true.

Mr. LEA (St. Pancras, E.) asked whether those explosions were due to the presence of mercuric chloride in cordite.

Mr. HALDANE said he thought that was extremely unlikely. He was inclined to think that the cordite was made out there.

British Generals and Disarmament.

Dr. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the reply given by General Sir T. Kelly-Kenny to Dr. Maurice Ernst, the London correspondent of the *Neues Wiener Tagblatt* for publication in that paper, on England and the disarmament question, and the answers of Generals Sir Ian Hamilton and Sir Alfred Turner to the *Allegemeine Zeitung* of Munich on the same question; whether either of these generals are on the active list of the Army or Reserve of Officers; if so, whether any permission has been given to these officers to express their opinion in the newspapers on the action of the Government; and, if not, what does he intend to do in the matter.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Haldane, Haddington): Of the generals referred to, only one—Sir Ian Hamilton—is on the active list and thus subject to military law. On General Hamilton being approached by a representative of a Bavarian newspaper, with a view to expressing his opinion on disarmament, Sir Ian replied that the military regulations forbade his writing to the Press on military matters. The expression of opinion in the Bavarian newspaper ascribed to General Hamilton is a translation of a passage of a speech delivered by him at Petersham on the 27th April last. I may add that the opinions of the retired officers alluded to in the Question are not such as to call for any action on my part.

Defective Rifle Ammunition.

*Mr. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the cause of recent failures of rifle ammunition; how many rounds of ammunition will have to be withdrawn from issue; and how many cases of cartridges bursting the rifles have occurred this year.

Mr. HALDANE: The whole matter is being investigated; and until the investigation is completed and full information obtained, a reply to the Question cannot be furnished.

Eltham Common.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to a report by Mr. Percival Birkett, made to the council of the metropolitan borough of Woolwich, as to the existence of rights of common upon Eltham Common; and whether he will now abandon the proposal to build upon this metropolitan common, and at once stop the felling of trees upon and the removal of the loam by the military authorities from it, with a view to its preservation as an open space for the benefit of the inhabitants of Woolwich.

MR. HALDANE: I have not seen the report referred to, but Mr. Birkett has been in correspondence with my Department on the subject. The proposal to build is still under consideration, but the felling of trees and removal of loam has nothing to do with the proposal to build. These measures have been taken to render the ground more suitable for the purposes of military training.

LORD BALCARRES: Is the War Office entitled to do this without bringing in a Bill?

MR. HALDANE: I have said that no decision has yet been come to.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): Will the right hon. Gentleman prohibit the removal of the loam?

MR. HALDANE: It is only being removed in order to improve the ground and to make it available for training purposes.

Yeomanry Inspections.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any general scheme is laid down by the War Office for the inspection of Imperial Yeomanry regiments; and, if so, whether he will ensure that such general scheme is adhered to by inspecting officers.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state for what reason the War Office has recently decided that Imperial Yeomanry regiments must march past at inspections.

I beg further to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that two and sometimes three different officers insist on inspecting Imperial Yeomanry regiments during a single training, and in consequence unnecessarily encroach upon the already limited time at the disposal of Imperial Yeomanry regiments for real practical work; and whether he proposes to take steps to stop this practice.

MR. HALDANE: Inspections of Imperial Yeomanry regiments in Great Britain are at present carried out by staff officers for Imperial Yeomanry under the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. The Imperial Yeomanry regiments in Ireland are inspected by the Brigadier-General Commanding 3rd Cavalry Brigade. No departure from the above procedure has been reported to the Army Council except in the case of one regiment in Great Britain which was inspected by the colonel commanding a cavalry regiment. No recent decision has been given as regards the compulsory marching past of Imperial Yeomanry. When for any reason the Imperial Yeomanry are required to march past, the same instructions are in force as those issued with the "Instructions for Training of Imperial Yeomanry," dated March, 1905.

St. Helena.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in consideration of the suffering caused by the removal of the garrison at St. Helena, he will consider the advisability of making a further grant to the islanders to help them tide over their present troubles.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I can assure the hon. and gallant Member that the Secretary of State is watching events in St. Helena with sympathetic interest, and, if circumstances at any time demand it, he will not hesitate to ask the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to give further assistance to the island.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: May I ask what garrison it is proposed to furnish St. Helena with in the event of Zulu prisoners being sent there?

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice should be given of that Question.

Transvaal Loans.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in consideration of or connection with the guarantee by this country of the new Transvaal Loan of £5,000,000, General Botha, or any one on his behalf, was asked to give, or did give, any undertaking or promise or assurance to His Majesty's Government or to the Colonial Office regarding the repatriation of Chinese coolies from South Africa, or whether such repatriation came under discussion in connection with the guarantee.

MR. CHURCHILL: The questions of according an Imperial guarantee for a £5,000,000 loan of the Transvaal Government and of the repatriation of the Chinese coolies from the Witwatersrand goldfield have been and will continue to be decided upon their respective merits by His Majesty's Government. No bargain of the kind suggested by the hon. Gentleman was ever made. The Transvaal Government remain perfectly free to deal with the repatriation of the Chinese coolies within the limits of the constitution under which they have assumed power; and His Majesty's Government on their part have every intention of most strictly adhering to and enforcing the policy in regard to the termination of Chinese labour in South Africa which has been repeatedly declared to Parliament and which in important particulars is embodied in the Letters Patent. But it is right that I should add that among the reasons which influenced His Majesty's Government in their decision to accord the Imperial guarantee in question to the Transvaal Government was a desire that the credit of that Government should in the early days of its existence be independent of the favour or ill-will of local interests.

MR. GEORGE FABER: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman to reply specifically to the last part of my Question, whether such repatriation came under discussion in connection with the guarantee? And may I ask, further, whether he will inform the House, if he can, the last occasion on which a loan issued by a self-governing Colony was guaranteed by the Imperial Government?

MR. CHURCHILL: That is plainly a Question of which I should have notice, but I may say that there are several excellent precedents.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would answer the last part of his hon. friend's Question.

MR. CHURCHILL: All sorts of matters connected with South Africa formed the subject of discussion with General Botha and Ministers of the Crown during his stay in England, and I have already stated to the House that there was no question of balancing the policy of His Majesty's Government in respect of the loan against the policy of the Transvaal Government in respect of repatriation.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Is it not a fact that, in consequence of the granting of the Chinese Ordinance to the South African mineowners, they guaranteed the loan of £30,000,000?

MR. CHURCHILL: That is a matter which concerns the late Government, and not the present one.

British Embassy at Tokio—Medical Officer.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Embassy at Tokio is a public institution within the meaning of the Medical Acts; whether a medical officer appointed to the Embassy ought to be a legally qualified medical practitioner; whether on the occasion of the last appointment to this office the vacancy was advertised or otherwise made known in Japan or in this country; and whether the gentleman now occupying the position of medical officer to the British Embassy at Tokio holds any medical qualification entitling him to act as a legally qualified medical man on British territory or to practise in Japan.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): As regards the first, second, and last parts of the Question I am not prepared to make any statement involving an interpretation of the meaning of any portion of the Medical Acts, but would refer the hon. Member to the last sentence of my reply to him on 14th May†. In regard to the third part, I may say that no advertisement was issued in the Press, but his Majesty's Ambassador reported at the time that he had made numerous inquiries in Great Britain as well as in Japan, without, however, finding a suitable British candidate.

Chinese Customs House at Dalny.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether an agreement has yet been arrived at with regard to the establishment of a branch of the Chinese Maritime Customs at Dalny; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state the nature of the agreement and when effect will be given to its provisions.

Sir EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Minister reported on the 31st ultimo that an agreement was signed on 30th May, providing for the functioning of a Custom House at Dalny from 1st July next, if the necessary arrangements were completed by that date. The reply to the second part of the Question is at present in the negative.

German Trade with the United States.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the *modus vivendi* on trade arrangements between Germany and the United States has now been settled.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I am informed that the administrative changes will take effect at once in the United States, and the reduction of duties on the 1st proximo.

Rebellion in Persia.

Mr. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the recent Report of His Majesty's Minister in Tehran to the effect that all is now quiet in the South of Persia makes any mention of the fact that a brother of His Majesty the Shah has been for some time engaged in the south-western provinces organising a rebellion against the Persian Government; and whether he has any official information as to the report that this prince is now marching northwards at the head of an army.

Sir EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Minister at Tehran has reported that a younger brother of His Majesty the Shah is in revolt between Kermanshah and Hamadan, and that military measures are being taken.

Mr. LYNCH: Has there been any request for mediation made to either the British or the Russian Government?

Sir EDWARD GREY: Not that I am aware of.

Chinese Anti-Opium Edict.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the anti-opium edict is of the same character, force, and validity as the ordinary official edicts of the Chinese Government.

Sir EDWARD GREY: As far as I am aware, the reply to the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative.

*Mr. REES: In that case, Sir, has the right hon. Gentleman seen the edict decreeing the posthumous promotion of the sage Confucius from the rank of the Sun and the Moon to that of Earth and Heaven?

Mr. LYNCH: How can it be supposed the edict will be carried out when our Consuls are unable to give even an approximate idea of the amount of opium grown in China?

Sir EDWARD GREY asked for notice of the Question.

Depreciation of Securities.

Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if his attention has been called to the fact that the list of representative bankers' securities now shows a depreciation in their value, since 1st January, 1906, amounting to more than the whole cost to us of the Transvaal war; and whether, having regard to the uneasiness caused to investors by this fall in values and to the losses which the Revenue must ultimately sustain, he will consider the question of applying a larger portion of the sinking fund to the purchase of Consols than he did in the past year.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 787.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I am aware that a very considerable depreciation has taken place in securities generally during the period in question, but I doubt whether any useful conclusion can be based on statistics showing the precise sum by which an arbitrarily selected list of stocks may have fallen in value within an arbitrarily selected period, or by comparing that sum with the total cost of the South African, or any other war. On the question of the mode of application of the sinking fund during the current year, I am not prepared, for the reasons which I gave in reply to a Question by my hon. friend the Member for the Mile End division on 27th ultimo,† to make any definite pronouncement at the present time.

MR. GEORGE FABER: May I ask if any of the money falling into the fund has been temporarily loaned for the purpose of the issue of Irish Land Stock?

MR. ASQUITH: I should like notice of that Question.

Income-Tax Returns.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can now give an estimate of the probable receipts into the Exchequer resulting from the new regulations as to compulsory returns of income made by individuals and employers.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir. I have no data on which to base an estimate of the amount of taxable income which escapes assessment through the imperfections of the present regulations.

MR. PIKE PEASE: Can the right hon. Gentleman make no estimate?

MR. ASQUITH: It is purely conjectural. We must wait to learn by experience.

Finance Bill.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): I desire to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is necessary the Royal Assent should be given to this Bill by any particular date?

MR. ASQUITH: I do not think so.

Workmen's Compensation.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a recent case heard in the City of London Court, in which a printer who had sustained serious injuries in the course of his trade was disqualified for compensation on the ground that the premises on which he was working at the time were a portion of a factory hired temporarily by his employers from another firm occupying it; that the Judge said he was very sorry for the plaintiff, but there was no course open to him except to find for the defendants with costs; and whether he will consider the desirableness of amending the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to cover such a case.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have seen the newpaper report of the case which the hon. Member has been good enough to send me. The point is met by the amending and consolidating Act of last session, which comes into force on the 1st July. Under that Act workmen will no longer be debarred from recovering compensation from employers on the ground indicated in the Question.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): Does the fact that the premises were only temporarily hired constitute good ground for the refusal of compensation?

MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I cannot answer that question.

Departmental Committee on Checkweighing.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Departmental Committee on Checkweighing in the Iron and Steel Trades contains a representative of the finished trades; and, if not, will he appoint such, in view of the fact that the necessity for compulsory weighing or measuring applies more particularly to the finished iron and steel trades, than even to the pig iron or smelting trades.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1318.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Committee does represent the employers and men engaged in a part of what I understand my hon. friend to mean by the finished iron and steel trades, and as I informed him on 8th May I prefer not to add to their numbers. The present Committee may, I think, be left to deal with such of the finished trades as come within their own experience, and the question can then be considered whether the Committee should be reconstituted with different representatives of the masters and men for the purpose of dealing with others.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Will the terms of reference entitle the Committee to inquire into the case of other trades where piecework obtains? For instance, quarrymen and navvies are nearly always employed by piece.

MR. GLADSTONE: As it is a Departmental Committee I can add to or alter the terms of reference in any manner I may consider desirable. It is my intention that the inquiry shall cover the cases referred to by the hon. Member.

The Companies Bill.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when it is proposed to proceed with the Companies Bill [Lords].

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): It is proposed to proceed with the Companies Bill on the first available day, but I am unable to give an exact date at present.

Sale of Disinfectants.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Privy Council Order of 27th July, 1900, which permits the sale without trial of fluids containing less than 3 per cent. carbolic acid or its homologues, on the ground that such fluids are not poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act of 1868, has resulted in flooding the market with disinfectants containing less than 3 per cent. carbolic acid; and whether he proposes to take such action as may be necessary to prevent this and to ensure the standardisation of disinfectants.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): Liquids containing less than 3 per cent. of carbolic acid are, I understand, chiefly used as deodorants. They would not be likely to be used where, in case of infectious disease, disinfectants were supplied by the sanitary authority on the advice of the medical officer of health. My attention has not been drawn to an increased use of deodorants of the kind referred to since the Order of the Privy Council was made, and it does not appear to me that I could take any action in the matter.

MR. REES: Is it not the case that many of the fluids are bought by the public under the impression that they are not only deodorisers but also disinfectants? If they do not disinfect, are they not a source of public danger?

MR. JOHN BURNS: If the hon. Member will supply me with examples, I will inquire.

Southminster Guardians' Election.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the Southminster guardians' election, where two candidates by the name of Messrs. Pipe and Downing were elected, at the same time holding contracts under the Maldon Union for the supply of boots and conveyances, and who took their seats in defiance of a protest made to the returning officer (Mr. White, of Maldon) before the votes were counted; and whether he intends taking any action.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have no authority to deal with the qualification or disqualification of candidates at an election of guardians, but I have made inquiry with regard to this case, and I understand that before the counting of the votes at the election a protest was made on the ground referred to in the Question. I am, however, informed that no contracts were then or are now held by either of the two candidates mentioned. It is stated that one of them has been accustomed from time to time occasionally to supply a pair of boots or shoes to paupers, but that since his election he has stopped supplying them, and that the other has never since his election supplied conveyances to the guardians.

General Post Office—Leave of Absence Regulations.

Mr. THORNE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will explain the diversity of treatment with regard to various grades of postal officials in relation to leave of absence for urgent domestic distress, in view of the fact that recently a telegraphist in the Central Office, London, was refused leave of absence by his deputy controller to attend the funeral of a near relative.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): If the hon. Member will give me the particulars of the case to which he refers, I will have inquiry made.

Belfast Post Office Staff.

Mr. MOORE (Armagh, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if there are at present in the post office, Belfast, thirteen post office assistants, originally in the service as telegraph messengers, who should have been dismissed at the age of sixteen, if it was not desired to continue them in the postal service; if these lads have service and unimpeachable records for from four to six years; if they are now aged from eighteen to twenty-one years, and, if dismissed, will have to search for new employment, out of which their continuance in the service after the age of sixteen has thrown them; what were the conditions under which they were so continued; and can he see his way, under all the circumstances of the case, to retain them in the postal service.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: There are thirteen telegraph messengers at Belfast, aged from eighteen to twenty, who have been employed from four to six years, and most of whom have a good record. Their employment was continued after the age of sixteen in the hope that it would be possible to appoint them as established postmen within a reasonable time. Unfortunately, the prospect of finding them established appointments is still remote; and it is considered best in their own interests that they should procure outside employment. They have for some time been employed as substitute postmen; and their employment in this capacity will be temporarily continued. It is clearly understood, however, that they will not thereby acquire any claim to established positions. It may be possible to appoint a few of them assistant postmen in the near future.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): May we take it that the boys will not be dismissed immediately?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: They are not exactly dismissed. They are simply told it is better for their own prospects to obtain outside employment.

Mr. J. WARD asked if it was not a fact that a considerable number of these boys were dismissed from the service about this age, because a preference was given to ex-military and naval men.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The House knows that an agreement was entered into years ago by which a certain percentage of vacancies was set apart for ex-soldiers and naval men. We do not propose to extend that system, or indeed to interfere with it.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the possibility of giving some technical training to these boys so that they may become skilled servants as sorters or telegraphists?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The right hon. Gentleman was not present I think when I spoke on the Post Office Estimates. We have given the utmost consideration to the question. We have the very greatest sympathy for the boys who have to find other work because we cannot employ them.

American Mail Service.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General is he aware that the North German Lloyd steamers are 23-knot vessels while those of the White Star Company are only 19; and as, under the altered arrangements of sailing, the steamers of both lines are to leave Southampton at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, letters carried by the North German Lloyd steamers will arrive in New York on Tuesdays and enable replies to be sent by the White Star steamer leaving the following day, whereas mails sent by the White Star steamer from Southampton will not be in time for answers to be so sent, is it, in these circumstances, his intention to continue sending the mails which are ready for despatch on Wednesday mornings, and which heretofore have been embarked in Liverpool, by the White Star steamer at 11 a.m., or will he have these mails sent by the North German Lloyd vessels leaving at the same hour.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The fact that the packets of the White Star Line now sail from Southampton instead of Liverpool will not affect the arrival of the mails in New York; because the packets will continue to call at and to leave Queenstown at the same hour as before, and the final despatch of mails from England will still take place on Wednesday evenings. It is and has always been possible to secure the transmission of correspondence by the German steamers by superscribing the letters accordingly. Consequently I do not propose to alter the arrangement by which all correspondence is sent by the British contract packets, unless marked for transmission in some other way. It should be borne in mind that the foreign steamers do not furnish a regular weekly service all the year round whereas the British packets are bound under contract to perform the voyage regularly.

Imports of Paper.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that rolls of green paper constantly arrive at the London Docks with an outside label, "Paper for the *Westminster Gazette*"; and whether, in view of the 16th section of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, he proposes to take steps to secure that the paper contained in this outer covering shall not be put into circulation bearing printed matter in the English language without a definite indication of the country in which such paper was made or produced.

MR. J. WARD: Before the hon. Gentleman replies, may I ask whether he is also aware that rolls of white paper constantly arrive at the London Docks labelled "Five miles of paper for the *Daily Mail*," and whether he will apply similar regulations to this paper?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): I am informed by the Board of Customs that the facts are not correctly stated in the first sentence of the Question. The rolls of green paper referred to are not labelled as described, but bear merely an initial letter and a number when cleared by the Customs Department.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked whether the hon. Gentleman had himself seen this paper arrive at the docks marked as described, as he himself had, and on whose authority he contradicted the statement in the Question. What was the name of the inspector on whose authority he spoke?

MR. RUNCIMAN replied that, as the hon. Member must be aware, at the time the paper was cleared by the Customs it bore only an initial and a number, and not the mark referred to in the Question.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Then I understand that the label is put on afterwards in order to deceive the public.

Second Division Clerks.

MR. PARKER (Halifax): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, in view of the fact that an examination for seventy vacancies in the Second Division has been announced by the Civil Service Commissioners, if he will state whether there are any new class assistant clerks serving in those Departments of the State in which such vacancies exist who are efficiently performing duties similar to those on which their Second Division colleagues are employed; whether any such assistant clerks are eligible for promotion to the Second Division; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirability of arranging that some of the Second Division appointments now vacant should be given to such eligible assistant clerks.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Promotions of assistant clerks can only be made in cases of exceptional merit and upon the recommendation of the head of the Department. Any such recommendations will be carefully considered, but I cannot undertake to adopt the course suggested by the hon. Member.

Dog Regulations.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what is the meaning of the word "dog" for the purpose of regulations under Section 2 (1) (a) of The Dogs Act, 1906; and at what age a puppy becomes a dog for that purpose.

THE TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Somersetshire, S.): The word "dog" is not defined in the Act, but there is no doubt that it includes puppies.

MR. ASHLEY: But at what age does a puppy become a dog under the Act? I wish to know because several of my constituents have been prosecuted.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: What the hon. Member wants to know is the effect of this section. It imposes no obligation, but it gives power to make orders; and what happens is that the local authorities submit regulations to the Board of Agriculture for approval. The hon. Member suggests that the local authorities and the Board of Agriculture would be so stupid as to make puppies wear collars.

MR. ASHLEY: I ask the simple question, What is the age which the regulations lay down?

[No Answer was returned.]

Meat Trade in Glasgow.

MR. WATT: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the facts that chilled meat, marked U.S., inspected, and passed, was seized in Glasgow Meat Market on 18th and 20th February, and found unfit for human food, that this meat showed no evidence of having been previously inspected, that United States statistics show that each inspector there has to examine the carcases and viscera of at least 937 animals daily, he will take steps to ensure greater precaution in admitting into Scotland this class of meat for human consumption.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I am not in a position to confirm the suggestion in my hon. friend's Question as to the conditions under which meat is inspected in the United States. The Local Government Board for Scotland have no power to take any steps to ensure greater precaution in the admission into Scotland of the class of meat referred to. I am informed that chilled and frozen meat does not come direct to Scotland from the United States, but that it usually goes to London or Liverpool and is consigned to Scottish centres from these Ports.

Irish Licensing Laws.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask Mr. Atterney-General for Ireland if he is aware that, notwithstanding the present provisions of the Licensing Law requiring public-houses to close, in all but certain towns in Ireland, at 9 o'clock, chemists and druggists claim the right to sell medicated or other wines and Burgundies between nine and ten o'clock; and if he will take steps to stop this practice.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): I am aware that a claim by chemists and druggists mentioned in the Question has been made, but the Government has been advised that it has no foundation in law. The police, however, have been instructed not to interfere when they find that the sale of medicated wines for the use of invalids is *bona fide* carried on as chemists' business, but where there is reason to believe that an ordinary wine business is being conducted and the regulations of the Licensing Acts merely evaded, prosecutions will be instituted.

Irish Schools—Heating Arrangements.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the climatic conditions prevailing in Ireland, causing distress among children attending national schools through the insufficient and irregular heating of class rooms, he will urge the Government to take steps to provide the funds necessary to remedy the existing state of affairs before winter sets in.

MR. CHERRY: I am afraid that I can add nothing to the reply given by my right hon. friend to the hon. Member's previous Question on this subject on 14th February last.†

Skibbereen Medical Officer.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have ordered a sworn inquiry into the election recently of a medical officer by the Skibbereen Board of Guardians, in view of allegations of bribery and corruption which have been made publicly.

MR. CHERRY: The Answer is in the affirmative.

Intimidation in Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of grazing farms in county Roscommon cannot be used by their occupiers because of the intimidation and unlawful interference with their user organised by the United Irish League; whether he is aware that it is publicly asserted in the district that the Government approve of the methods of the League; and whether, seeing that the object of this action is to force the sale of the grazing farms for distribution among members of the League, the Estates Commissioners will be instructed not to purchase any lands in regard to which intimidation has been practised to force a sale.

MR. CHERRY: I am informed that there are a number of grazing farms in county Roscommon at present unoccupied, and I regret to say that there is reason to believe that, in some of these cases at all events, this result is due to unlawful interference by crowds of people who have driven cattle off the lands. I have no information that it has been publicly asserted that the Government approve of methods of intimidation, an assertion which would be quite contrary to the fact. The real facts are that prosecutions have been instituted in every case where intimidation has been reported and where evidence is forthcoming, and that full police measures have been taken for the protection of the occupiers of grazing farms in the exercise of their legal rights. As regards the concluding part of the Question, I would refer to the Answer given by my right hon. friend to the Question put by the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division on 14th May.‡

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): May I ask whether the intimidation and unlawful interference spoken of is properly described in the evening newspapers as "Terrorism in Ireland"?

MR. CHERRY: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. BYLES: Does it amount to that?

[No Answer was returned.]

Nevins Estate, County Limerick.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland at what date was the Nevins Estate at Mountshannon, Annacoty, county Limerick, parcelled out to the tenants; how was the allotment made; were all the persons who were given farms on this estate evicted tenants; have any changes been made since by any inspector; and has an inspector power to change a tenant from one farm to another after such tenant being put in possession and signing the agreement for purchase for the farm allotted to him.

MR. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the distribution of the lands referred to took place on the 7th of last month. Of the persons who were allotted holdings, nine were evicted tenants, two were tenants on the estate, and four were tenants of adjacent small holdings. The allocation of such holdings is decided on by the Commissioners themselves, upon a scheme prepared by their inspector, and approved of by them. The Commissioners are not aware that any change has been made since the new occupiers were put into possession. No change could be made without the Commissioners' approval.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 311, 562.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 799–800.

Birr Compensation Cases.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many claims for compensation for malicious damage to property were before the last Birr quarter sessions; and what was the total amount awarded by the court.

MR. CHERRY: Three claims for compensation were heard on the occasion mentioned. In one case the claim was dismissed. In another case the sum of £1,660 was awarded as compensation for the malicious burning of a stable and horses. Appeals have been lodged in this case by both the county council and district council. In the third case, the sum of £35 was awarded as compensation for the burning of the roof of a dwelling house.

Irish Council Bill.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the event of the Irish Council Bill not becoming law, he will take steps to secure that the whole or some part of the proposed additional grant of £650,000 shall be available for development purposes, and particularly to facilitate land purchase and to avoid further inroads upon the Guarantee Fund.

MR. CHERRY: The financial provisions of the Irish Council Bill were framed in connection with the Bill itself, and cannot be considered apart from it.

MR. LONSDALE: Is it not necessary to do something towards relieving the congested condition of Ireland? Cannot a portion of this money be applied to that purpose?

MR. CHERRY said he thought it was desirable that they should get as much money for Ireland as they could in every possible way.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what sum is at present available for advances to purchasers under the Land Purchase Act of 1903; and when it is proposed to make a fresh issue of Irish land stock.

MR. ASQUITH: Money is at present being supplied to the Irish Land Purchase Fund by temporary loans from funds in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners, as and when required, as provided by Section 30 of the Irish Land Act, 1903. This answers the Question just put by the hon. Member for York. There is no present intention of making a public issue of stock.

MR. LONSDALE: Can the right hon. Gentleman say what sums are lying to the credit of the Estates Commissioners?

MR. ASQUITH: I cannot say without notice.

Derby Day.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the great interest taken by Members of all Parties in the House in the working of the Street Betting Act, and of the unique opportunity afforded by the Epsom racing carnival of ascertaining in what respects the Act requires amendment or extension, he will consider the desirableness of adjourning the House over Derby Day, and thus afford Members an opportunity in the public interest of studying the matter upon the spot.

MR. ASQUITH (for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): The Answer is in the negative.

Rise in the Price of Wheat.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if his attention has been called to the considerable rise in the price of American wheat since the failure of the Prime Ministers at the Imperial Conference to obtain any consideration of preference for grain grown in the Empire; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent the increased cost of bread falling upon the poor.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was familiar with the lines—

> "Who fills the butchers' shops with large
> blue flies ?
> Who makes the quartern loaf and Luddites rise ?"

MR. ASQUITH (for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): I am familiar with those lines. I am aware that there has been a rise in the price of wheat, though I did not know that it was due to the proceedings of the Imperial Conference. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to regulate the price of food-stuffs or other commodities, but they propose to keep the ports of the United Kingdom open for the free importation of wheat from whatever quarter it may come.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Arising out of that Answer, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that the price of bread is now considerably higher than it was during the time the shilling registration fee was in force and when £7,000 a day was being received by the public revenue for that registration fee, and, also, whether he is aware that the price of bread is considerably higher now than it was before the preferential door was banged, barred, and bolted ?

[No Answer was returned.]

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 176.]

Minutes of the Proceedings to be printed. [No. 176.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House for to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 220.]

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee C.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 177.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 177.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 221.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Attorney-General; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Solicitor-General.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following fifteen Members (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. William Johnson, Sir Walter Nugent, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Watt, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Hills, Mr. Meysey-Thompson, Mr. Abel Thomas, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Gooch, and Mr. Beck.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following fourteen Members (in respect of the Municipal Elections Bill): Mr. O'Mara, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Cleland, Mr. Barnes, Major Coates, Mr. Younger, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Wood, Mr. King, Mr. Alfred Mason, Mr. Lewis Haslam, Mr. Benn, and Mr. Mallet.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

"To prohibit employment between noon on Saturday and six o'clock on Monday morning in cotton, woollen, worsted, flax, hemp, silk, jute, and paper factories, and in bleaching and dyeing works," presented by Mr. Jowett; supported by Mr. Snowden, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Wardle, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. George Roberts; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 222.]

TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 8:

*VISCOUNT MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) moved to insert after the word "Act" the words "and of the Militia Ballot Act which shall be applicable to the Territorial Force." He said the Secretary of State had made an appeal for a nation in arms, but he had not attempted to enforce that duty upon the nation by putting into the Bill any clause which would lead the nation to recognise the duty. The other day the right hon. Gentleman made a very remarkable statement. He admitted that country was in the greatest difficulty in regard to its military institutions, owing to the system of voluntary enlistment. Successive Secretaries of State had endeavoured to overcome those difficulties with various schemes which had been put before the House. But the right hon. Gentleman had not gone to the very root of the matter. He hoped under his system to get the number of men he required, and many hon. Members shared that hope, but some of them were very sceptical on the point, and consequently desired that there should be some safeguard in the Bill upon which the Government could fall back in the event of the right hon. Gentleman's hopes failing realisation. The whole question was based upon this point: it was impossible to get trained men in time of war in sufficient numbers unless there was some compulsion in time of peace. It was not that the British citizen was unpatriotic, nor was it that he was unwilling to serve when the necessity stared him in the face; the difficulty was one rather of want of thought. Men were not anxious in time of peace to undertake the drudgery of military instruction. Where thousands would be willing to come forward in time of war only tens, or perhaps hundreds, would come forward in time of peace and consent to undergo the drudgery which was essential for their utility in time of war. When the right hon. Gentleman threw out the hope that his scheme might be successful he forgot that other schemes which had also been heralded with high expectations in the past had proved failures. Every device had been attempted, but all had been equally futile. The history of recruiting was an ignominious one wholly ignored in popular histories. They had tried voluntary enlistment with high bounties, and they had also tried a modified form of compulsion, but both systems had broken down. The right hon. Gentleman had told the House that he had copied the example afforded in the Parliamentary wars and had set up county associations, but he did not tell the House that that most successful army of Cromwell's was based upon a system of compulsion. Coming to later times they would find that this country carried on its wars with the aid of subsidised allies and the employment of foreign mercenaries. He knew of no great war in which this country had been engaged, barring the late South African War, in which that had not been the case. That, however, was impossible in the present day, and, therefore, the question of what they were to fall back upon in time of a great war was one which would have to be considered in a different spirit from the spirit of optimism which the right hon. Gentleman had displayed. The right hon. Gentleman had referred more than once to the Napoleonic wars, the last great European conflict in which this country was engaged. Well, it was only by putting the Ballot Act in force during that war that we were enabled to maintain a large force in the field. For the Militia was able to find drafts for the Regular Army and yet maintain its strength. But the Act had another effect at that time. The Volunteer movement, it was true, was partly due to a purely patriotic spirit, but it also originated in a desire to avoid the liability imposed by the Ballot Act. The right hon. Gentleman, in some of his speeches, had told them that in some future war we might require as many as 900,000 men. The highest total the forces of the Crown ever reached during the wars of Napoleon was about 800,000; therefore the right hon. Gentleman contemplated the possibility of Army Forces which would exceed the greatest force ever raised by 100,000. Yet he hoped to raise that force by a purely voluntary system of enlistment. He was afraid the right hon. Gentleman was doomed to disappointment. He was not asking in his Amendment that compulsion should be applied, but he was asking that the power of compulsion should be retained in the hands of the Government, so that if it should turn out that they were not able to procure the necessary men in the way the right hon. Gentleman expected they would have some power to fall back upon. Compulsion was not, as he had endeavoured to point out, a new principle, nor was it an undemocratic principle, because it was enforced by some of the greatest democracies both in the past and in the present. Neither was it at variance with the principles of the Party opposite, because they had introduced the principle of compulsion in the matter of land purchase, and he failed to see that it was any more contrary to the principles of Liberalism to compel a citizen to defend his country than to acquire land under compulsion for the public service. The first argument he wished to put forward in defence of the retention of the Ballot Act was that it was necessary, and that probably the right hon. Gentleman would not be able to provide an Army without it. The second reason was that it was the primary duty of every citizen to take part, or be liable to take part, in the defence of his country. That principle was recognised by our Colonies and by our late enemies in the field—the Boers. Thirdly, it was the only fair way to raise troops The right hon. Gentleman's Bill called upon a large number of men to serve in the Territorial Army, not for payment but from patriotism and a sense of duty. Under the Bill a large number of men would serve, owing to a sense of patriotism, at great inconvenience and possibly loss of income, and they would see around them men who were indifferent and were unwilling to face the obligations which they themselves had readily undertaken. Therefore, the only fair way was to provide that all citizens should be equally liable to serve in the Territorial Army. Such an obligation would not encourage a spirit of what was called "militarism" or "jingoism." On the contrary, the Auxiliary Force that would exist under such a system would be mainly civilian in spirit, and every question would be looked at from the civilian rather than the military point of view. He wished to draw attention to two points connected with the Ballot Act itself. At the present time the Secretary of State for War had to consider, not how many men he required for the Army or for the Territorial Force, but how many he could raise. Under a system of compulsion he would be able to fix the establishment at what he regarded as necessary and to maintain it at that strength. The other day the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean said that the Ballot Act was obsolete as applied to Militia. He would be more than reluctant to differ from the right hon. Baronet, who was a well-known authority on such matters, but there were high authorities whom he had consulted who did not agree with that statement. Moreover, there was a debate in the House of Lords in 1900 when the matter came under discussion, and Lord Lansdowne then stated that the retention of the Ballot Act was a power the late Government were not willing to part with. Evidently, therefore, in the opinion of Lord Lansdowne the provisions of the Ballot Act were still applicable. Until they had a statement to the contrary from the Law Officers of the Crown they were entitled to assume that in the opinion of the present Government also the Ballot Act was still on the Statute-book and could be enforced. He frankly admitted that the Ballot Act as it stood was archaic and would have to be re-drafted and re-cast. It was impossible for him on that Amendment to suggest what its provision should be, but if the Amendment were carried it would entail the re-casting of the Act. The old Act allowed anyone who was drawn for service to obtain a substitute. He would object to any system which allowed substitutes. Those who were richer should not be allowed to buy off and compound their duty to their country by hiring men to take their place. It was rash for the Secretary of State for War to assume without any proof that he would obtain the number of men he required under the Bill, and even if he obtained them it would only be at an enormous expenditure, an expenditure far exceeding any amount yet presented to the House as the probable cost. If he were willing to base the Territorial Army upon duty to serve when the Government considered the necessities of of the country required it he would get a more efficient and vastly cheaper Army than he would get under this Bill, and he would have behind him an inexhaustible supply of men ready to fill up gaps in the Army during a long campaign. He, therefore, moved the Amendment, which he believed was in consonance with the dictates of true patriotism and citizenship.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 11, after the word 'Act,' to insert the words 'and of the Militia Ballot Act which shall be applicable to the Territorial Force.'"—(*Viscount Morpeth.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said the noble Lord's speech showed that he had given serious consideration to this question, and had endeavoured to get at the facts and the law of the case. But he had admitted that the Militia Acts, even if they could be applied to this force, were of such a character as to work in the most unfair fashion. Those Militia Acts not only took no account of the Volunteers, but they enabled rich men to buy substitutes. If there was any proposition likely to prove more odious than another it was that a rich man should be allowed to buy a substitute. What, then, became of the proposal to apply the Militia Ballot Act to this force? The noble Lord had asked whether hon. Members on the Government side of the House could take objection to his plan of making compulsory what was the duty of the citizen. Why should that question be addressed to that side of the House? He was not sure what was the view of hon. Members opposite. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon was an apostle of the objection to compulsion. How, then, was it possible to challenge the Government on this principle? No doubt they would have a clear and emphatic utterance from him upon this question. The noble Lord said they would never get this force; but was it not worth trying? The Government were asking for 300,000 men when the establishment was full. They had very nearly that number at the present time in the Yeomanry and Volunteers, and it was not extravagant to expect that such a force would come forward if a proper and satisfactory organisation were provided. At any rate, that was the view of the Government, and they wished to do everything in their power to see whether this force could not be raised upon a purely voluntary footing. The Militia Acts of 1852 and 1860 were both alive and could be applied; but the view of the Government was that it was not expedient to raise the question of compulsion. There was not the smallest reason for passing the Amendment, because they did not propose to sweep away any obsolete machinery. They were not proposing to raise a force of 900,000 men, except in a case of very great emergency. What they were proposing was such a force as would give the public a sense of security, and so get rid of all the grumblings and murmurs that distracted attention from useful topics. Therefore, they did not desire to resort to machinery which could not possibly be required excepting under circumstances of such grave emergency that they might be left to take care of themselves. The Government had endeavoured to frame an organisation for a comparatively small force, and for that purpose they considered that compulsion was useless, and might be mischievous to their ends. For those reasons they could not accept the Amendment.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said that if the Government system were voluntary, it could not be uniform. If the plan were tried upon a uniform basis it would inevitably have to be strengthened by compulsion. He thought the plan of the Government was going to fail. There was also a question of principle involved. The right hon. Gentleman said the Militia Ballot Act remained in force. That was true, and it enshrined the principle that in this country for the last thousand years it had been the duty of its inhabitants to defend it. The existing Ballot Act, however, was not only suspended, but was quite obsolete. It was possible to amend it, and an amending Bill had already been drafted and printed. It contained these words—

"A person balloted to serve in the Militia shall not be permitted to find a substitute."

If the Militia Ballot Act remained in force, then to whom did it apply? Under the plan of the right hon. Gentleman the Militia would be abolished. If the Militia Ballot Act were still alive, where were the men liable under it to go? Were they to go into the Territorial

Force which the right hon. Gentleman had just said was to be on purely voluntary principles? This was another example of the vague position in which matters were left under the very vague provisions of this Bill. The Militia was to live until the county associations made some plan which was incompatible with the continued existence of the Militia as a body. That was an illustration of the difficulties in which they were placed by the very singular method of drafting pursued in the Bill. The proper course would have been to amend the Militia Act. That course, however, had not been followed. As this was a somewhat academic question, he did not propose to proceed further with it.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said the Amendment involved a principle which was advocated by a great many Members at the present moment. He joined that band of isolated individuals who favoured the principle without being desirous of seeing it enforced unless it was proved to be an absolute necessity. It had not been enforced in this country for a good many years. It was obvious that if the present scheme failed the country must be involved in a position of great danger. In fact with regard to our Auxiliary Forces there would be chaos. The right hon. Gentleman was very sanguine with regard to the success of the Bill, and he declined on that account to contemplate any suggestion of failure. He could not say that he shared the right hon. Gentleman's optimistic views. He did not believe the men of this country would come forward in the spirit in which the Secretary for War wished they would. In saying that he did not wish to say anything against the patriotic spirit of the country, but he did not believe that the men were prepared to sacrifice a great deal for the purpose of displaying the spirit of patriotism. Consequently he welcomed the Amendment because he believed it would place in the hands of the Government a weapon which they ought to possess, and one which, if the necessity arose, they should put in force. With regard to the 300,000 men whom the right hon. Gentleman hoped would come forward, it was obvious that the conditions under which they would be asked to serve in future would be different from those which had obtained in the past. A great many of the attractions which formerly induced the Yeomanry and the Volunteers to join would be absent. They knew well how recruits joined the Regular Army. A certain percentage joined for the purpose of doing something for their country, but he believed that was a very small percentage. That was proved by the seasons at which the majority of the recruits joined. They joined because they were unable to find other employment in the labour market. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would get the recruits he believed would come in. Under ordinary circumstances this weapon, which involved the principle of compulsion, would not be put in force, but he thought the Government should have the power of enforcing men to join the ranks for the purpose of serving their country in a time of great national emergency. That was done during the Peninsular War, and there was no reason to believe that circumstances of equal magnitude might not arise in the near future. The time might come when the Government would be at their wits' end to obtain a large number of men, and when it might be necessary to send a large force to the continent of Europe. He sincerely hoped the emergency would never arise, but he thought that the Government should be furnished with a weapon for the purpose of expanding the military forces of the country.

*SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.) said he understood that the Secretary for War fully acknowledged that contingencies might arise when it would be necessary to enforce the Militia Ballot Act, and that at the present time it was a living Act. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that when the Territorial Army was created the Militia Ballot Act would die a natural death. Therefore the present Bill entirely killed the Militia Ballot Act. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would correct him if he was wrong.

*MR. HALDANE said it did not kill it legally; so far as the Militia continued to subsist for a short time theoretically the Act would remain with vitality. But should the Militia in their present form become obsolete, then, no doubt, the Statute Law Revision Committee would regard the Act as obsolete

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) asked whether the Act would continue as far as the Irish Militia were concerned.

*Mr. HALDANE said they came under Part III., and would cease as Militia in the old sense.

*Sir SAMUEL SCOTT said he understood, at any rate, that the Militia Ballot Act would be practically killed. He much regretted that he found himself unable to support the Amendment of the noble Lord. The right hon. Gentleman had brought forward a voluntary scheme, and he thought it only just that they should give that scheme a fair chance. Nobody knew better than the right hon. Gentleman that, if he failed to obtain the men under it, there would be and could be no alternative but compulsory service. But the right time to discuss compulsory service was when they had practical proof of the failure of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) mentioned that high legal authorities had advised successive Governments that the Militia Ballot Acts were virtually already obsolete, because they largely applied to a class of Militia which had ceased to exist.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) thought that some of the explanations given in the course of the debates had been rather obscure. He had, unfortunately, been compelled to obtain his information from the public prints, and on many points he was absolutely in the dark. He believed that that state of things prevailed inside as well as outside the House. But there could be no ambiguity about the fact now elicited by his noble friend. They had now got two unequivocal statements—first, that the Secretary for War believed that the Militia Ballot Act was a valid and subsisting Act, and, secondly, that he believed that, being a valid and subsisting Act, it ought to be put an end to. The pretence which had been put forward by some supporters of this proposal, that the Militia was not going to be destroyed, must now be abandoned. It had been stated over and over again, in speeches and in contributions to the Press, that those who said the Militia was to be destroyed were mistaken. But they now found that so entirely was the Militia to be abolished, lock, stock, and barrel, that a set of Statutes which were valid and subsisting, which had been called into action in the past, and might easily be invoked in the future, would be struck off the Statute Book by the early efforts of the Statute Law Revision Committee because there would be nothing to which those Statutes could apply.

*Mr. HALDANE said he had expressly stated that this Bill did not abolish the Militia. The Militia would become obsolete in consequence of the new system set up under this Bill, and they had taken power to bring in Orders in Council to abolish Militia units if and as they pleased.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that if ever there was a distinction without a difference, that was one. The right hon. Gentleman said he was not abolishing the Militia, but he was passing an Act which would be regarded by the Statute Law Revision Committee at an early date as having had that effect.

*Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said the whole discussion had been on the assumption that the Militia Ballot Act, if put in operation, would compel these men to give themselves for service abroad. That was not so. If the Ballot Act were put in operation the only thing the men could be asked to do would be to serve for home defence. What was the good of that when they had in the Volunteer Act of 1863 a provision that in case of actual or apprehended invasion the whole of the Volunteer Force could be asked to serve for home defence? He thought it was immaterial whether the Ballot Act was in operation or not, since the Secretary for War had all that he wanted with regard to mobilisation in the Volunteer Act of 1863. The clause to which he referred was in the following terms—

> "Every officer and Volunteer and every N.C.O. of the Permanent Staff belonging to every Corps so called out shall be bound to assemble as the Lieutenant of the County directs, and to march according to orders within Great Britain; and shall for the purpose of this Act, be deemed on actual military service. If any such Officer, Volunteer, or N.C.O., not incapacitated by infirmity for military service, refuses or neglects to so assemble or march, he shall be deemed a deserter."

They had there everything they could secure under the Ballot Act. The impression had been given outside that hon. Gentlemen opposite were anxious to continue the Ballot Act because it would enable the Government in case of war to send men to fill the first line of the Army. That was absolutely absurd.

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. Member for East Edinburgh was generally very lucid in his contributions to the debates, but in this case he was confusing two matters which were totally distinct.

*MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said he was supporting the Amendment because there was an element of compulsion in it. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh had forgotten that even the American Government could compel not only Volunteers but every man in the country to fight in its defence in case of emergency. The Secretary for War had told them that his scheme would give the people of this country a sense of security. He could not see how it could give them any possible sense of security; because the right hon. Gentleman would get neither the quantity nor the quality of men he required. The quantity of men for the Territorial Army was likely to be considerably less than it now was, and the quality to be considerably worse. After all, they had had warnings as to the dangers of invasion from almost all our great war captains from the Duke of Wellington down to Lord Roberts and Lord Wolseley. He asked the Secretary for War whether, even if he succeeded in getting 300,000 men for his Territorial Army without the use of the ballot, he really thought that 300,000 partially trained men would be enough to protect the country from invasion? Three hundred thousand men would not be anything like enough to guard our coasts; and therefore it would be impossible to use the Navy in chasing and destroying the enemy's ships. And if we could not do that, we could not secure the necessary supplies of food for our people and of the raw material for our manufactures. That would mean that our people would be starved into submission in a very short time. The Secretary for War had gone out of his way to prevent the people of this country from learning that it was their duty to join the Auxiliary Forces. He had capitulated to that section of the Government Party who did not take any notice of history; and had prevented the teaching of boys in elementary schools that it was their first duty to learn enough to defend their country in any great national emergency. So far as he could make out the right hon. Gentleman was going to try—he thought probably unsuccessfully—to get 300,000 men to take all the trouble and risk of the defence of our shores, leaving millions of able-bodied men to do nothing to make themselves of any use. He could not see that that was a scheme on Radical or democratic lines. Moreover, by the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman they were going not only to have fewer troops but less training. It seemed to him that we were really in danger of a sudden war and of invasion every month; and the Government might very well be compared to Nero who fiddled while Rome was burning, or to Belteshazzar who trusted to water to defend his country—and they all knew what the result of that was.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he hoped the hon. Member would adhere a little more closely to the Amendment.

*MR. HUNT said he was sorry he had got over the line; he found it rather difficult to keep to the Amendment, but if the Chairman should find it necessary to put him down again he would remain there. It seemed to him that this attempt to get 300,000 men for home defence without using the Ballot Act meant that with the self-deception of the ostrich the Government were sticking their heads in the mud and refusing to see the dangers to which they were exposing the country; and he believed that if the country had the chance next month they would send the Government out to grass, like Nebuchadnezzar of the swollen head. "Quem Deus vult perdire prius dementat." He hoped, however that in this case, it might be the curious conglomeration of fragmentary atoms which called itself the Liberal Party which would be destroyed and not the country.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was not confining himself to the subject matter of the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said he did not want unnecessarily to prolong the discussion; but he was in a position of some difficulty as to how he should vote owing to the fact that he did not understand the position of the right hon. Gentleman as to the Militia Acts. The right hon. Gentleman had said that those Acts were real, vital, and living Acts, and he distinctly understood him to say that they applied to the Militia as at present constituted. If that were so, and they could be used in case of emergency, the right hon. Gentleman brought in a Bill that did away with the Militia in its present form, and by a side-wind destroyed the Militia Acts which were the safeguard of the reserve. If the right hon. Gentleman accepted that position and refused this Amendment, he supplied the Opposition with a very strong argument in favour of excluding the Militia from the scope of this Bill.

*MR. HALDANE said he was against compulsion in every shape or form, and he did not want to see those Acts put in force.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said that the right hon. Gentleman had found himself in difficulty in trying to explain why there should not be compulsion; because he admitted that he could conceive a set of circumstances under which the only alternative to national danger was to have recourse to compulsion. The right hon. Gentleman based his objection to the acceptance of the Amendment on the ground—reasonable and natural enough for him—that if this Bill were passed there would be no necessity for the grumbles and murmurs of some hon. Members about compulsory service. If he could agree with the right hon. Gentleman in that respect he might postpone further consideration of compulsion till some future time. But if that grumbling and murmuring were to cease the right hon. Gentleman must correct his scheme so as to make the country certain that he was providing an adequate force physically fit for the defence of the country. The force should be capable in regard to the physique of the men and because they had been well trained. The reason why the country was murmuring and looking to compulsion as a necessity was that this Bill, which was the last ditch between the present system and compulsion, did not provide an adequate force or give them sufficient training. He thought the right hon. Gentleman must amend his Bill in the direction proposed unless he showed that he had put aside the idea that compulsion might be necessary. It might be said that he was allying himself with the advocates of compulsory service, but he was not. He did regret, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had not allied himself with any system for the production of national efficiency and training powers. He wondered whether his right hon. friend had noticed a curious piece of information given in print the other day by those representatives of the working classes who went through Germany, who laid it down categorically that the compulsory service in that country had been of direct advantage to the working population. That was a fact which the right hon. Gentleman might bear in mind as showing an increasing disposition in this country to recognise that some form of compulsory service was not inimical to the interests of the population or adverse to the growing desires of the people. He confessed he was not desirous of advocating immediate compulsory service in this country, but he was glad to see that the right hon. Gentleman confessed that it might become necessary, and that when it was necessary he would not shrink from it.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) associated himself with the position taken up by the hon. Member for Fareham, although he had no doubt the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War would think him very stupid for doing so. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to say last night, that the Militia as it existed would to a large extent be absorbed in the special contingent or reserve. In that case the Militia Ballot Act would not apply to any of the Auxiliary Forces absorbed, and the Irish Militia would also be excluded from the possible operation of the Ballot Act while this Act remained in force. However, he might ask if any of the Militia absorbed into the Territorial Force would be liable to the operation of the Militia Ballot Act?

*MR. HALDANE: No.

SIR GILBERT PARKER was glad to have it made quite clear that the Bill excluded any member of the Territorial Force from the operation of the Militia Ballot Act. His hon. friend the Member for East Edinburgh had asked what was the good of the Militia Ballot Act, because they were already able to secure by means of the Territorial Forces what they required in cases of emergency. But the Secretary of State for War had said he was going to leave great emergencies to take care of themselves, and he was not going by this Bill to do anything to provide any safeguards for emergencies except on the principle of embodiment. He put it to the Secretary of State for War, supposing he had 700,000, 800,000 or 900,000 men, which was the number the right hon. Gentleman expected to keep up for expansion and to get from this Territorial Force, did he imagine that that force would be a Reserve providing a large number of men to go abroad? In the Napoleonic wars four out of every five men who joined the Militia subsequently entered the Regular Army. They might expect therefore that a great number of men could be brought in under the Militia Ballot Act, and that would provide a much larger number of men not only for Home defence but to go abroad. The proposal was perfectly sound and reasonable, as he thought the Minister for War would admit. What he complained of was that the Minister for War had deliberately excluded from this Bill a safeguard which had been given to this country and exercised by them for generation after generation. Did the right hon. Gentleman think it wise to throw aside a weapon which the State had placed in his hand—a time honoured weapon and a live weapon as he himself had said? What harm would it be to retain it?

MR. HALDANE: It is a blunderbuss.

SIR GILBERT PARKER did not think the right hon. Gentleman's estimate of the weapon was quite in keeping with his previous utterance, which was to the effect that it was a live weapon. If it was a live weapon it could be applied. If it was applied it cast a responsibility upon the men. The only objection in principle which the right hon. Gentleman had to the Militia Ballot was that it gave the opportunity of substitution. As his right hon. friend the Member for Dover had pointed out, it could be amended, and if his noble friend had moved his Amendment and added the words—

> "And the Militia Ballot Act as it exists or may be amended,"

that objection would be met. [Laughter.] Well, his drafting might not be very good, but his suggestion was perfectly sound all the same. Suppose that the right hon. Gentleman's scheme failed? He knew that the right hon. Gentleman looked upon the mere supposition as an indication of incipient lunacy on his part, but there were a great many people who were very doubtful on the subject. When the right hon. Gentleman had established his County Associations and his Territorial Army, and after he had dismissed his Militia and they had been absorbed, a reconstruction would mean a crisis in the military organisation of the country. Whatever the result of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme might be—whether it succeeded or failed—it must go on for a great many years, and he felt very strongly that if it failed in whole or in part, and we were faced by an emergency, the right hon. Gentleman would not have done the country or the patriotism of its people justice if through the operation of this Bill he had thrown away the obligations of the Militia Ballot Act. He was not going on that occasion to advocate a compulsory system of military training although he was strongly in favour of it. If they were to look at the cases of Guernsey and Jersey the Committee would see that there they had the operation of the Militia Ballot. In Guernsey they got three times the Volunteers they wanted. Why? Because a kind of Militia Ballot Act was in force, and every employer of labour and every employee knew the fact and faced it. Therefore the people came forward as Volunteers rather than wait to be compelled. He appealed to any hon. Gentleman who knew the facts to say whether it was not the case that Guernsey could to-day get three times the number of Volunteers they wanted. That was not in consequence of a system of militarism, but it was a purely democratic policy which every Colony in the Empire either had or was about to place in its constitution. Australia was even now making it compulsory for every man to serve. He was convinced that in this matter the right hon. Gentleman had made a mistake, and, although he thought it was too late, he heartily supported the Amendment.

MR. ARTHUR LEE asked whether the Volunteer Act of 1863 would apply to the Territorial Force when the Volunteer Force disappeared.

*MR. HALDANE: No, but other provisions of the same nature will.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE pointed out that a large number of the provisions of the Militia Acts alluded to a different kind of Militia from that which was now in existence. There used to be two kinds of Militia, a general Militia and a local Militia. The local Militia had ceased to exist. The Militia Acts were therefore inapplicable in every particular to the Militia as it existed to-day. It was at one time proposed to repeal all the Acts relating to the local Militia as being obsolete, but that was not done and large portions of them were still in force although they did not apply to the present force. It was the Act of 1802 which proposed to establish a local Militia which had been described as a respectable military force under the landed proprietors of a district. Under the later Act it would be found that there was a provision by which the overseers out of parish rates had to pay half the sum currently charged for a substitute in cases of persons not possessing property of £500, and a description was given of the persons who should have the opportunity of providing substitutes. Since boards of guardians were established that system had ceased to exist. A great many of the provisions of those Acts could no longer be put in force in regard to the existing Militia, and therefore they could not be put into force in regard to the Territorial Army which it was proposed to create.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said he was afraid that he must be suffering from the incipient military lunacy alluded to by the hon. Member for Gravesend as he did not think the scheme of the Secretary for War would be a success. He did not look forward to it as being an immediate failure, because it would take many years to establish, but he believed that when it was put to a severe test, comparable with the late war in South Africa or with a great European war, the scheme would fail as signally and totally as the other schemes which had gone before it. There was, however, at least one good point in the scheme, namely, that it did form the groundwork of a scheme of universal military service, and when the country came to its senses and saw that without a scheme of universal military service they could not consider themselves safe from any point of view it would be possible to go forward on those lines. To that extent, and from that point of view, he welcomed the Bill, but in other respects he did not think the system which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to set up would be better than the system under which they had been working for some years. Whether it would be worse was a matter upon which it would be premature for him to express an opinion, but at all events, it furnished a starting point, from which the country, when they realised what some of them had realised, what a system of makeshift the present was, could start upon a system of universal service. For these reasons he was glad that his noble friend behind him had introduced the Amendment, as it served as a distinct point at which Members could avow themselves in favour of some form of universal service and definitely state that in their opinion the voluntary system had been and always would be found wanting.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) supported the Amendment and said it was to be regretted that the debate must be necessarily curtailed, because a week could be usefully spent in thoroughly discussing the proposal which the Amendment involved. The Secretary of State for War had referred to the Ballot Act as inapplicable, but he was sure that the noble Lord who moved the Amendment did not desire that the Ballot Act, exactly as it stood now, should be applied in connection with the Territorial Force, but only that the right hon. Gentleman should consider whether it was possible to embody the principle in this Bill. It was the desire of everyone in the House that the Bill should be a thorough success. But it was felt that there would be a difficulty in obtaining a full establishment on the various occasions when it was needed. Therefore the noble Lord moved the Amendment to ensure that the establishment required would be obtained if the Government at any time found it necessary to have the full strength in connection with the Territorial Force. Under the Bill those who at present were taking, and those who in the future were to take, an active part in qualifying themselves to defend their hearths and homes were subjected to certain pains and penalties. It seemed to him, however, that it was those who took no part in such matters but stood by apparently indifferent to what happened to their country in time of difficulty and stress, who should have the pains and penalties and not those who took trouble in order to qualify themselves to take part in the defence of the country. Under the proposal of the noble Lord the Government would have in time of difficulty the power to call upon every man of suitable age to take his place in assisting his fellow-citizens in the forces of the kingdom. The Amendment did not propose, as some hon. Members appeared to have thought, that the Militia Ballot Act should be put in force at once. It was only with a view of meeting an emergency which might arise that the proposal was made. In that way it would not interfere with the working of the Territorial Act or the forces raised under that Act, but would merely supplement those forces at a time of national difficulty and danger. At the present moment they were face to face with a condition of things which discouraged many from associating themselves with that which the right hon. Gentleman had submitted to the House in connection with this Bill. National prosperity alone was opposed to it, and sports and games, which seemed to take up all the thought, time, ambition, and interest of vast numbers who might qualify themselves for service in the Territorial Force, also seemed to be opposed to the people taking upon themselves any such duty. If, however, it was understood that the citizens of this country were expected to qualify themselves in this way, it could not have other than an excellent effect both physically and mentally upon the young and growing men of the country. The mere expansion of suitable provisions such as had been adumbrated would not have the effect of encouraging a love of war. He did not think that love of war was widespread in the population at all, but there was a fear that what was called militarism would arise. Nothing could be more fatal to that spirit of militarism than the proposal of the noble Lord, and, so far from tending to foster any kind of military spirit, on every occasion when the country was threatened with a crisis or a war the Amendment would tend to the maintenance of peace, for the manifest reason that every man would be liable to be called upon, and therefore every man's interest would be in the direction of the maintenance of peace. Moreover it would constitute a protection against the difficulty which had arisen in France and Germany under their present system. There was no doubt, young men being taken from their occupations for a period of many months or for two or three years, the mere consequences of military training had the effect of killing initiative and originality in the working classes of those countries. At the present moment there was no question that the British working man was far superior to the working man in Germany or France or any other country in regard to initiative, inventive power, and enterprise generally. This proposal, which did not involve absolute military service for any considerable period, would not have any such drawback as was involved in the systems of other countries, while the physique of the population would be preserved and all their powers in the directions to which he had referred maintained to the great advantage of the industrial and other classes of the community. When they looked back upon the spirit shown by every class in the land at the time of the South African War, could they conceive for a moment that any section of society would consent to be exempt from such duties as they rightly believed ought to devolve on every able-bodied citizen in the country? Although the Amendment might not be carried that afternoon, he felt sure that the spirit and principle of the proposition would not have been placed in vain before the right hon. Gentleman, with his great and rapidly increasing knowledge of military affairs.

*MR. MADDISON (Burnley) said he was very glad that the Secretary for War was carrying out to the full his assurances to many of them that this Bill would not be an indirect method of getting compulsion. He could quite understand that the noble Lord and his friends opposite had some real liking for the Militia Ballot Act. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean had shown him one clause which was unrepealed.

VISCOUNT MORPETH said that if the hon. Member had done him the courtesy to listen to his speech he would see that he was speaking under a total misapprehension. He had stated that the Ballot Act as it stood was archaic, and would require drastic redrafting. It was the spirit of the Militia Ballot Act which he advocated, and not the clauses.

*MR. MADDISON said, with all respect to the noble Lord, he judged him by his Amendment on the Paper rather than by his speech.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said he had expressly explained that the Militia Ballot Act should be subject to modification in the future.

*MR. MADDISON said that would be a subject of separate legislation, and how could they know what modifications the noble Lord and his friends would accept or reject? Therefore, he submitted that he was within his right in reading an unrepealed clause of the Militia Ballot Act, and from that gathering something of what hon. Members were after. It was a truly appalling clause—

> "That in case any person not possessed of any estate in land, goods, or money of the clear value of £500, and who shall make oath that he is not possessed of such estate, shall be chosen by ballot to serve in the Militia for any parish, tything, or place, ... the churchwardens, or overseers of the poor, of such parish, shall pay to every such person any such sum of money not exceeding one half of the current price then paid for a Volunteer."

The clause was one long drawn out and invidious distinction.

VISCOUNT MORPETH: May I ask which Act the hon. Member is quoting from?

*SIR C. DILKE: The clause is unrepealed.

*MR. MADDISON said it was quite clear that if the right hon. Gentleman were to accept the Amendment he would undoubtedly be making a very serious concession to the openly expressed desire of hon. Members for compulsion. An hon. Gentleman opposite had said he would look upon compulsory training as the triumph of the Bill into which it was introduced. On his side of the House they would regard the introduction of compulsion in any form as being reactionary and requiring vigorous resistance. He ventured to say that the right hon. Gentleman in resisting the Amendment was keeping to the voluntary character of his Bill, and for his part he should oppose the Amendment.

COLONEL SANDYS (Lancashire, Bootle) said he understood that the Amendment embodied a principle of which he himself had always been very much in favour. He thought that by applying an improved Militia Ballot Act they would have very much greater power than existed at the present time for obtaining a reliable and sufficient service in time of need. The only point he would impress upon the House was that the power should not be left dormant until it was too late. They must recollect that however powerful the House of Commons might be to vote money, and to vote numbers of men, the money would be wasted, and the men would not be efficient unless time was given for training before the period of pressure came. He was speaking with knowledge of the subject, because this day fifty years ago there occurred the massacre of Cawnpore, and, as he was serving in India at that time he had seen what these needful precautions meant in actual operation. He could quite understand the feeling of the hon. Gentleman opposite with regard to compulsory military service; but however repugnant might be the sacrifice to their preconceived notions which they might be called upon to make in order to provide an efficient defensive and fighting force, the sacrifice would be very likely to lighten what they would have to endure if, under some mistaken idea, they did not too long delay making it. Therefore, he thoroughly supported the Amendment. As the Secretary of State for War knew, he was opposed to the Bill as a whole, but he was not opposed to it in so far as it afforded a basis for legislation which would furnish the country with a sufficient, and to some extent properly trained force for use in the hour of need. But why was it necessary to break down the well-recognised military lines on which the Army had been constituted?

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. and gallant Gentleman was not now addressing himself to the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 75; Noes, 261. (Division List No. 202.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHnSir Alex.F.
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn. SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J, S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir JohnH.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King,SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long, Col. CharlesW.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheffield, Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Morpeth and Mr. Carlile.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow,Jno.Emmott(Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpton
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under-Lyne
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. ASHLEY moved to insert the words "Provided that no man shall be enlisted for any duties for which he is not physically fit." He thought that any man who had had experience with the Regulars and the Auxiliary Forces would agree that such a proviso was necessary. He desired to elicit from the right hon. Gentleman some explanation as to the standard of physical fitness he proposed to impose. Was the standard of physical fitness to apply to foreign or home service? It seemed to him that the Territorial Force would be of very little use unless they were allowed to use it oversea. There was Clause 12, which the right hon. Gentleman on the previous day had attempted to minimise; but perhaps later on it might be found to be of more use in time of need than the Party opposite seemed to think. What standard did the right hon. Gentleman propose to set up to ensure that the Territorial Force would be fit to defend the country or to repel a serious raid? He had had the privilege of serving His Majesty in the Militia Forces, and although he found that all ranks were animated with the greatest desire to defend their country, there were men in the force who were not fit to go on active service, either at home or abroad. The country ought not to be asked by any War Minister to pay for a man who was not able to perform all the duties required of him. Under the present regulations there was some excuse, because there was a great temptation to keep within the ranks men who did not come up to the required physical standard, and they were obliged to permit a certain number of men in the ranks who were not able to carry out their duties efficiently. He might be asked why he wished to impose this severe test when he had not, in regard to the Army Annual Bill, made any such proposals with respect to the Regular Forces. His reply to that would be that the soldier in the Regular Forces lived all the year round in barracks under the eye of his company officer or colour-sergeant and medical officer. Frequently the Regular soldier went out for training and took part in manœuvres, and any serious ailment must come to the notice of the medical officer. But the Territorial soldier would only be for fifteen days in the year under the eye of the military authorities, and if any serious physical infirmity existed he would go to his own medical adviser, and knowledge of it would not come to the ears of the military authorities. Unless some special regulations were issued there was no reason to suppose that those who were medically unfit would ever be found out. He suggested that there should be a reasonably strict medical examination on enlistment and that there shall be another on embodiment. If a Territorial soldier missed two consecutive trainings of fifteen days each he should be compelled to undergo a medical examination. If a man missed the training for two years, the presumption would be that his absense was due to some physical defect, and therefore an examination by a medical officer was necessary. He had put the case with moderation, but the right hon. Gentleman had gone very much further than he had done. Talking on the efficiency certificate of the Volunteers in the past, the right hon. Gentlemen in the course of the debate, on Wednesday last, said—

> "The certificate is of an extremely general character. A man might be old and he might be toothless. You produce the man and you get the capitation grant."

Could there be a better justification for the Amendmant than that?

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 8, line 14, at the end, to insert the words, 'Provided that no man shall be enlisted for any duties for which he is not physically fit.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Amendment proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. HALDANE said it was true that he used the expression which the hon. Gentleman had referred to. He was then speaking of men who had got into the force, and who, remaining in it, had grown into the condition which he described. But it was not the case that with the Volunteers there was no examination. On the contrary, he believed that that examination was not altogether of an informidable character.

*MR. ASHLEY: You said that some of the men are old and toothless.

*MR. HALDANE: Even the best of us became old and toothless. There was a test now, and it was intended in the future to have a test, possibly a better organised and more severe test than now. But the Government did not wish to lay down any such test of disability as that which the hon. Gentleman proposed. Who was to settle that a man was not physically fit? By what test of law was he to be adjudged incapable? He assumed that all the hon. Gentleman meant was to raise the question of having a standard. He agreed that there must be a standard. He did not at present tie himself as to what it was to be. There was a different standard for different corps in the Regular Army, and so there might be a different standard for different arms in the Territorial Force. Only experience could guide them as to what it should be.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT, referring to the return of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, said they were delighted to see the right hon. Gentleman, and hoped he might be able to remain during the rest of their discussions on the Army Bill. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment had fired off the old fallacies about insufficient medical inspection of Volunteers and about commanding officers accepting men in order to obtain the capitation grant. There was not a word of substance in the statement. Commanding officers of Volunteers desired for their own sake always to have the most effective and efficient men, because if they enrolled inferior and indifferent men they would receive a great reduction in the capitation grant. It should be remembered that the grant was not 30s. but only 10s. for third-class shots and inefficient men. Volunteer recruits were not only medically examined on enrolment, but were subject to the inspection of the adjutant, who was a perfectly independent officer for purposes of recruiting, and the commanding officer could not accept men who did not comply with the War Office requirements. The recruits were always separately inspected by the inspecting officer, and if he found that the men were of insufficient physique—wholly apart from eyesight, on which the capitation grant absolutely depended—he would call upon the commanding officer and the adjutant to explain how these men of defective physique had been admitted. He knew there had been many allegations on this point, but they had never been proved in the slightest degree. There was a very much smaller number of rejections of men of the Volunteer force than of the Regulars in regard to fitness to take the field. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover when Under-Secretary stated that no less than 36½ per cent. of the Regular Army—men who had been enlisted for regular service—were prior to the South African campaign rejected as unfit for field service and retained at home. No such percentage as that had occurred as regards the Volunteer force, and he regretted that his hon. friend had dished up this old chestnut.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER thanked his hon. and gallant friend the Member for the Central Division of Sheffield for his kind reference to himself. He welcomed the promise given by the Secretary of State for War that this question would not escape his notice. He did not altogether agree with his hon. and gallant friend; but he thought the mover of the Amendment went a little too far. What he asked was that the men who were willing to leave the country should be fit to serve in time of war. Was it not going a great deal too far to say that those men were likely to be immune from those evils which overtook the men in the Regular Army? It was not fair. His hon. friend had no right to suppose that the Volunteers of the Territorial Army would be immune from the afflictions which often existed in the case of the Regular Army. His hon. friend had spoken of this question having been raised before. It had been raised before, but he would remind the Committee of the point on which inquiry was made. At the time it was urged by Members of the House that there should be an inquiry as to whether the Volunteers could be relied upon for foreign service and as to their fitness for service abroad. It was not quite a matter of physical standard as the hon. Gentleman had suggested. That had nothing to do with it. It was a question of physical fitness—whether they were of such sound health as to be able to undertake the rigours of a campaign. It did not really matter whether they fought at home or abroad. He had read an account of what took place when the French were fighting on their own soil and under conditions as favourable as ever could prevail in a country fighting for its existence. He had read nothing to lead him to suppose that a weak constitution was permissible in the case of troops fighting under such circumstances at home or anywhere else. He did not think it was unwise that the inquiry had been made. He repeated what he had said before, that the Volunteer officers behaved in this matter with immense public spirit. The inquiry was to ascertain what was the state of preparation of the Volunteer Force, and whether they were physically fit from the point of view of active service. The Volunteer officers themselves in most cases led the way in undertaking the examination. There were 180,000 men examined. Let it not be be supposed that the examination was one which imposed a high standard, or that there was any question of demanding that they should come up to some impossible standard. The demand made was very light. The inquiry was to ascertain whether the men between the ages of nineteen and forty-five came up to the requirements laid down, not for the Regular Army, but in the Volunteer regulations—whether the men were of sound constitution and free from organic disease; and the result was that 29,000 men were reported by their own commanding officers as not coming within that category.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercrombie): Will the right hon. Gentleman say how many were under age?

* MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he could not tell the hon. Gentleman at present; the present total was over 60,000, but the question did not seem relevant to this matter. The disqualifications were in many cases strangulated hernia and heart disease. There were many cases of men serving who really ought not to be serving at all. Owing to the assistance of the capitation grant there were very strong reasons for retaining these men in the force under the old conditions. It did not follow that because a man had strangulated hernia he was not a first-class shot. He might be able to earn the capitation grant, and there was, therefore, a motive for retaining unfit men in the force. If the whole of the Volunteer force had been examined no less than 40,000 men would have come within this category. Was it a desirable thing to delude themselves in a matter of this kind? He admitted that what the right hon. Gentleman said yesterday put a different complexion on the matter to a certain extent. He had always believed, and he thought many of them had been led to believe, that among other purposes the Territorial Force would serve as a great reservoir for the expansion of the Regular Army in time of war. He had before him a speech made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who took the view which, he understood, was originally taken by the Secretary of State for War. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that in any modern war a nation required an Army capable of very large expansion; and after citing the case of Japan, he went on to ask how we were to get those larger numbers as quickly as possible in case of war, adding that the only way was to get them from the Volunteers, and that the Volunteers must be made to feel that their system was the national system, and that if this country was ever attacked the nation would be able to use all its resources and united energies in defence of the Empire. If that stood it was absolutely imperative that there should be a careful examination of the kind referred to in the Amendment. It was no answer to say that the Volunteers were examined when they joined. He thought that in some cases that examination was somewhat perfunctory. The hon. Gentleman had spoken of the Regular Army, but if he looked at the annual return he would find that tens of thousands of men after enlistment left the Army after two or three years because they were unfit for active service. He thought that that was very deplorable, and he was glad to think that the right hon. Gentleman was continuing the number of medical rejections. That was the true way of avoiding the waste of the Army. But let it not be supposed that unsuitable men did not leave the Army. They did in thousands. Every military authority knew that it was not only useless but dangerous to take into the field men who were incapable of active exertion or of conforming to the modest requirements necessary in connection with marching and manœuvres. He understood that the men were to be enlisted for a period of four years; and if they could not enforce any regular medical inspection every year during that term of four years, some steps should be taken on re-enlistment to see whether the men were physically fit. Was not that a reasonable demand? A very large sum of money was being voted for the maintenance of the Volunteers, and unless they were capable of fighting there was no justification for maintaining them. They all knew that there were in the Volunteer force men who, although in good health when they joined the force, might not at the end of their four years service be able to undertake the hardships which might be imposed upon them. And yet the commanding officer could not get rid of such men so long as they complied with the other conditions of service regulations promulgated by the War Office. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would carry out the indication he had given of his intention to put a very serious construction on this matter. If it was

contemplated that these men were to serve abroad, then we must take the precaution, which every other country took, of ascertaining their fitness to go abroad. It was for that reason that he would support the Amendment of his hon. friend.

*Mr. McCRAE said that on the previous day he had ventured to express his regret at the absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, and he wished to congratulate him on his presence in the House to-day. He could not understand what was the object of the Amendment. At the present time no Volunteer was enrolled until he had been subjected to medical examination. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had issued the unfortunate circular as to medical examination, but to-day the right hon. Gentleman had tried to minimise the demands made therein. The objection of the Volunteers was that the test sought to be imposed on them was more severe than that applied to soldiers of the Line. What the right hon. Gentleman asked from the Volunteers was fitness for service abroad; but on his own showing to-day he asked for a test of fitness for men of nineteen years of age. But the right hon. Gentleman knew that for the Auxiliary Forces men were enlisted before they were nineteen years of age, and that if they were not recruits would not be obtained. The right hon. Gentleman had said that age did not come in at all. But age did come in, and that youths of seventeen should have the same physical fitness as men of nineteen years of age. The right hon. Gentleman had also skipped very lightly over the question of teeth, but many men were cast out on the question of indifferent teeth. The figures the right hon. Gentleman quoted were produced in rather an extraordinary way. Many commanding officers felt that the demand which the right hon. Gentleman was making on them was one which did not come within the terms of service of their men, who were enrolled for service at home, and not for active service abroad, and that therefore the demand was unconstitutional. When his regiment was in camp he himself put his men through the examination; but they had always in camp a very large number of young recruits, and therefore the comparison was very unfair. What happened? Many of these young men did not come up to the standard of the right hon. Gentleman. But what did they do? Two days after arrival in camp they were turned out with the Regular troops for a night march, which extended to fifteen miles, and thereafter engaged at half past three in the morning in field operations without a break, but not one man of his battalion fell out. And yet many of these young men did not come up to the standard of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon. No Volunteer commanding officer would object to any reasonable standard of efficiency in so far as physical fitness was concerned, but he insisted that it should not be demanded that youths of seventeen should be subjected to the same test of physical fitness as to chest-measurement and height as men of nineteen years of age, which the right hon. Gentleman ought to impose.

Sir GILBERT PARKER held that the principle of examination for physical fitness should be embodied in the Bill, and not in regulations to be made under the Bill. His argument was that this Act should become part of the history of the nation, and he could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman objected to embodying in it the words of the Amendment. Presumably the regulations might be altered in many respects, but he could not see why the right hon. Gentleman should have any objection to accept an Amendment which would secure for ever a standard of physical fitness in what was to be the greatest force for our home defence.

*Mr. HALDANE hoped that the Committee would come to a decision on this question, the discussion of which had been conducted in such a business-like fashion, in order that other important points might be fully considered.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 95; Noes, 248. (Division List No. 203.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.SirH.]
Balcarres, Lord

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring,Capt.Hn.G.(Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim,S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robt. (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill,SirClement(Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King,Sir HenrySeymour (Hull)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, JohnFrederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Sheffield,SirBerkeleyGeorge D.
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv)
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Col. C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Sir Gilbert Parker.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland-(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'wrHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col. Alan(Hereford,S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W. E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Anold(Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John

Hudson, Walter
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
King, Afred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson,Charles N(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps,J. Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price Robert John(Norfolk E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson Sir William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radclide)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L.(Leeds,S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry(Halifax)
Whittaker,Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*The CHAIRMAN said he thought the next Amendment was consequential on a previous Amendment, which had not been carried.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE pointed out that though it might be consequential it afforded the only opportunity of asking the right hon. Gentleman what was the meaning of the new word "enlisted," and how it differed from the old word "enrolled." The word had been passed without discussion in a previous section and the Amendment could not be now pressed, but it was a word to which a good deal of objection was taken. It was a change or might be a change which might have some effect on the Volunteer Force. The Volunteers at present were enrolled, not enlisted, and he desired to know how far it was intended to exclude, or how far it was intended to alter, the civil character of the Volunteers. The last paragraph in page 3 of the Bill, which read—

> "The recruiting for the Territorial Force both in peace and in war and defining the limits of recruiting areas,"

might give power to use the words enlist or enroll, and to continue to enlist as well as enroll. He would like to ask the right Gentleman to consider how far it was possible to make use of this wording in recruiting for the Auxiliary Force. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, lines 12 and 13, to leave out the words 'enlisted by such persons and,' and to insert the word 'enrolled.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

*MR. HALDANE said that the *status* of the territorial soldier under this Bill would not be exactly the same as the old-fashioned Volunteer. His *status* would be more akin to that of the Yeomanry, and came rather under the conditions attaching to the Militia than to the Volunteers. The reason why "enrolled" had not been chosen was because it was a term reserved for the somewhat loose state of things appropriate at the time when the Volunteer Force was created, and with the idea that the "enrolled" citizens should come forth on a proper signal being given. That was a condition which was very different from that to which the Volunteer Force now aspired; and therefore the word "enlisted" had been chosen as being more appropriate to the character of the force in these days.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he would not press the point. But it came within the right hon. Gentleman's powers to vary the terms in certain cases. Only the other day, the right hon. Gentleman had said he would vary the terms of the Army name so that the regiments and battalions might be known as Volunteers and not by any new names, and therefore he ventured to press the right hon. Gentleman to say whether the word "enrolled" should be retained for the second line of Volunteers, as there was a very great predjudice in many quarters against the words "Army" and "enlistment."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ASHLEY said the Amendment he now moved was to put right what he believed to be a mistake in the drafting of the Bill. According to the Bill a man could only enlist for general county service. As the Bill was drawn a man in, say, Hampshire could only go and enlist in the Hampshire force. He could not specify a particular regiment in which he desired to enlist. That seemed to him an extraordinary position to take up when in the Regular Army a man could enlist in a particular regiment, and in the Volunteers in a particular company. He only moved this Amendment formally lest the Amendment a little lower down, which the right hon. Gentleman had agreed to accept, was not in order. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 17, after the word 'enlisted,' to insert the words "for a particular corps or."—(*Mr. Ashley*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted.

*MR. HALDANE said the form of this clause was taken from the old Militia Acts. He quite agreed that it was not quite the proper form, and if the hon. Member would withdraw this Amendment and move a subsequent Amendment of which he had given notice he would accept it.

MR. WYNDHAM said that if the Government accepted the subsequent Amendment that would be for particular corps. Before that was done the Committee ought to know what the right hon. Gentleman meant by corps. He was probably aware that there was very great dissatisfaction in the Army at one time when a corps was interpreted to mean a particular body.

*MR. HALDANE said in Section 190 of the Army Act there were two distinct definitions of the words corps. One was in sub-section 15 (a), and was open to the criticism just made, and the other was in sub-section 15 (b), and related entirely to the Auxiliary Forces. That was the definition they proposed to adopt, and under that definition a corps might consist of one battalion or two or three associated battalions of Auxiliary Forces. He could not make a complete plan.

MR. WYNDHAM said that under that definition it would be in the power of the Crown to say that anything which they thought convenient was a corps. What he thought his hon. friend wanted to ensure was that it should be possible to enlist in a regiment or a battalion. The right hon. Gentleman might not be able to make a complete plan, but he could limit establishments so as to prevent one regiment being swollen and another being starved. He could say that a regiment should contain so many and no more. It was not right that the Government should have power to call anything they liked a corps.

MR. ASHLEY said that though the Committee might be satisfied with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman they had no guarantee that in the new rules mentioned there might not be one changing the whole condition. In the Middlesex County Association area there were twenty-seven battalions. Would they all form one corps? If so, and the Territorial soldier was to be changed about from one body to another, he would be no better off if the Amendment was passed than he was before.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the right hon. Gentleman would clear up the whole matter if he would tell the Committee what was not a corps.

*MR. HALDANE said that what was contemplated as a corps was a group of battalions. The 1st and 2nd Norfolks, with the Volunteer and Militia battalions, would form a corps in virtue of the definition in the Army Act. A man enlisting for a corps such as that could not be transferred to another corps, from one body defined by Royal warrant to another body so defined. In the Regulars a man could be transferred from battalion to battalion of the regiment to which he belonged. It was necessary when a particular battalion was cut up in war time, for instance. The utmost concession which the Government could make would be that a man might insist on serving in a particular corps, but not in the one particular battalion of the corps which he joined.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it might be that he was the only Member of the House who did not understand the right hon. Gentleman's reply; but what he submitted was that a person wanted to know when he had enlisted whether he was liable to be transferred. For instance, the Rifle Brigade and the 60th, each had eight, ten or twelve battalions—some in Ireland, some in England, and some in Scotland. They were attached battalions, and came exactly within the definition; and what he understood his right hon. friend wanted to know was whether a person, having enlisted in the Territorial Army for a battalion—say in the North Riding of Yorkshire—was liable, against his own will, to be transferred, either in time of peace or in time of war, to another battalion in some other part of Yorkshire, though the limitation was not at present confined to a single county. They wanted to know a little more about what was intended. He could quite understand, and did not for a moment dispute, that there might be strong military reasons for making a transfer of that kind desirable, but if that was the view of the War Office they ought to know it. He thought that transfer might be very useful in time of war, but it would be profoundly unpopular in time of peace. Therefore, they ought to know a little more than what was contained in the definition which the right hon. Gentleman had read. He did not believe that any Volunteer would be one penny the wiser after he had read it twenty times. What the Volunteer wanted to know was whether he enlisted into the regiment which he named, or some other regiment to be created in the future—some corps of which he knew nothing at all. One example would bring this matter home. He heard the other day of two corps, one of which was enlisting more men than the other. The commanding officer of one of them told him that, much to his regret, his corps was losing men because in a neighbouring corps the men were being paid as much as 5s., and even more, in order to get them, with the result that they were getting men to enlist who otherwise would have enlisted in his corps. What that indicated was that there was very great reluctance on the part of different corps to give up their men under any circumstances, whether in peace or war. He would again ask the right hon. Gentleman to tell them what was a corps at the present moment. They ought to know how it was this definition came to be used, and an answer might bring them nearer to a solution than they were at the present time.

*THE CHAIRMAN said they were getting into irregularity. An Amendment had been moved by the hon. Member for Blackpool, and he understood that he was willing to withdraw it because another of his later on was likely to be accepted. If this Amendment were withdrawn he did not see why another Amendment should not be proposed raising the question of what the Government meant by the clause as it stood in reference to enlistment.

MR. ASHLEY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WYNDHAM moved, for the purpose of eliciting a further statement from the Secretary of State for War, an Amendment providing that a man should be enlisted "in any regiment or battalion" in a county for which an association had been established. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the word "corps" might mean two battalions of Regular infantry, a Militia battalion and a Volunteer battalion. It might mean that now, but surely it would not mean that if this Bill passed into law. Many of them desired to see those three stages kept, but this Bill abolished them. If he followed the right hon. Gentleman's intention that was not the state of affairs which he wished to create. In the second place, the right hon. Gentleman said he meant by the word "corps" several battalions of the Territorial Force presumably in one county. That would not satisfy his hon. friend behind him, and certainly did not satisfy himself. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of transfer and had pointed out that in time of war they transferred men in the Regular Army from one battalion to another. That might be desirable in time of war, but the question which the Committee had before them was the question of enlisting the men. As the Bill stood, without any Amendment, they could enlist for a county; that was to say, that if a man went to the recruiting office and wished to enlist it was in the power of the authorities to post him, so to speak, to any battalion in the county. They objected to that. What they held was that the man should be able to enlist in this regiment of Yeomanry or cavalry or that battalion of infantry. He was at a loss to conceive on what grounds the right hon. Gentleman refused the Amendment when he had it in his power to say that in the case of a popular regiment its establishment should not exceed 1,500, and that an unpopular regiment should not be less than 300. He thought it was legitimate to limit or diminish the establishment of a regiment and that where a regiment was persistently weak to say that the regiment must be disbanded. The right hon. Gentleman had these two weapons, and they ought to be ample to enable him to form the purely voluntary force which he was trying to make.

*MR. HALDAN Esaid that as a layman he had listened to the right hon. Gentleman speaking as a soldier, and he was very much surprised that the right hon. Gentleman had not had in mind that when a man enlisted for the regiment he enlisted for the corps and was posted to the unit. The analogy which they had got here was the exact analogy which obtained everywhere. They never did enlist for the unit. In the Yeomanry, for instance, or any other force, they never did enlist for the unit; they enlisted for the corps and were posted to the unit. The corps in the future would be the same as the corps constituted under the Army Act. They would consist of groups of battalions. For instance, they would be on a county basis, and enlistment would be by corps. The Bill provided that a man could not be transferred from one corps to another without his consent. No doubt recruits would be posted to the units to which they asked to be posted. That was intended to be done, and it was the practice in the Regular Army. The right hon. Gentleman had raised this point to have the matter elucidated, but he could not expect him to accept the Amendment, which would be wholly inconsistent with the structure of the Bill.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that a recruit was surely posted to his particular unit now—that was his particular corps. Was that what the right hon. Gentleman meant?

*MR. HALDANE said he had explained that the man enlisted for the corps.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that for many years they had enlisted, and did so now, for the 9th Lancers, the 17th Lancers, and the 8th or 10th Hussars, and he knew that men in many cases enlisted for a particular regiment; but the War Office had made an arrangement altering that state of things, and very much against the will of the officers and many of the men of cavalry regiments, those cavalry regiments had been turned into a corps. It was quite a mistake to suppose that enlisting for a regiment was unknown in the Army. For many years, for a hundred years at least, it had been the universal rule. That had been the constant and uniform practice in the Army for many years. What they wanted to know was, which practice was to prevail; was a man to enlist for a regiment, or for a number of regiments?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.) said that if a man enlisted into the Territorial Force under the County Association, say, of Norfolk, he would enlist for the part governed by that Association, and he could not be shifted out of that county against his will. He therefore could not be separated from the corps for which he had enlisted—namely, the corps of the Territorial Force belonging to the Norfolk regiment.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the Under-Secretary for India was full of good intentions, but he had not conveyed to his mind any clear idea of the intentions of the Government as regards this Territorial Force. They were very anxious about the success of this new force. The right hon. Gentleman had no experience either of the force or of the Auxiliary Forces, except that he had distributed a few prizes, and he really must listen to those who had had experience. Anyone who knew anything of the Auxiliary Forces knew perfectly well that they would not get a single man if they enlisted for general service. If they wanted to get these men the Government ought to listen to practical experience in the matter. The Under-Secretary for India said he had dealt with the case, but that was not so, and he did not appear to understand the elements of the voluntary force. He had told them what would happen in the various regiments, and he had mixed them up. If the Under-Secretary would consult his hon. friend sitting behind him, who had served in one of the Metropolitan regiments, he would find out that he was absolutely wrong in regard to what he had said about those regiments. Did anybody suppose for a moment that the class of men who were likely to form the Territorial Force were going to join it for general service? A man generally joined a Volunteer regiment because he happened to be connected with it by tradition. Probably he knew the Colonel and the officers, and that was the particular regiment he was prepared to give voluntary service to, and he would not be prepared to give service to an unspecified regiment in some distant part. The right hon. Gentleman refused Amendments, and would not listen to the views of those who had had experience; under those circumstances was it likely that the Territorial Force would prove to be the success he desired? The men wished to join some definite regiment, and if they persisted in allowing a man to enlist for general county service he was afraid they would not get a single man to join.

*MR. HALDANE said they did not wish to enlist the new Territorial soldier for general service, as the hon. Gentleman seemed to think. They wished to enlist a man for his corps and to post him to the battalion he chose, but, above all things, what they wished to stick to was accurate language in the Bill. Accurate language demanded that they should say that a man enlisted for a corps and was posted for the unit which was in that corps. Of course, in framing the corps for the purpose of the Territorial Force they would define the units to be associated in such a fashion as would be convenient for the purpose of enlistment and for the purpose of posting; but no idea was more remote from the mind of the Government than that a man should be enlisted for general service and posted anywhere against his will.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): Having posted a man, will it be in the power of the authorities to transfer him to another battalion in the same county?

*MR. HALDANE: They never do in time of peace. In time of war such a power is considered necessary in all well-regulated military organisations.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) suggested that the difficulty might be met if the right hon. Gentleman would accept an Amendment to add at the end of the clause some such words as these:—"Provided always that every man shall be posted to the unit in which he desires to serve, and shall not be transferred therefrom in time of peace without his consent." It applied to men of all classes. Suppose a man residing in Portsmouth enlisted in the Hampshire Infantry and wished to serve at Portsmouth, if it were possible to transfer him against his will to Bournemouth and to force him to take his drills there and run the risk of losing his employment at Portsmouth, he would probably not join the force.

*MR. HALDANE said his hon. and gallant friend had expressed what he had himself said, and if it would be any comfort to the Committee to have it put in words, he had no objection to doing so. He should prefer to bring up the exact words on the Report stage. He would undertake to bring up an Amendment which would give effect to the sense of his hon. and gallant friend's suggestion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman had taken this course. He thought it was the right course, and he congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on the fact that there would be a Report stage for this Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM said that in view of what the right hon. Gentleman had said he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment. He understood that what had been suggested by the hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division would be incorporated in the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. McCRAE moved to amend Sub section (*b*) in order to provide that enlistment should be "for a period not less than four years." He said that under the clause as drafted, after the first three years, the commanding officer would have to ask each man specifically whether he wished to re-engage, and if he re-engaged he would have to be re-sworn. That would have a disturbing effect. At the present time a Volunteer served for three years, and could remain for such length of time as he liked, subject to certain notice of his intention to retire. He was quite sure that the provisions in the clause practically making an annual re engagement necessary after the first three years, would encourage men to resign rather than to continue in the service. Human nature was human nature, and they had an example of what this system led to in the three years' enlistment of Mr. Brodrick. At the end of the three years the soldier was to have an opportunity of re-engaging, and the consequence was that hardly a man after the three years did re-engage. He felt that if the right hon. Gentleman adhered to the clause as at present drafted he would put a great obstacle in the way of maintaining the numbers in the different battalions. He could not understand why the words which he proposed to omit should have been introduced. It seemed to be entirely a piece of red tape. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would look into the matter. It was most essential that some modification should be made in the clause. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, lines 21 and 22, to leave out the words, 'such a period as may be prescribed, not exceeding,' and to insert the words, 'a period of not less than.'"—(*Mr. McCrae.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question."

*MR. HALDANE said his hon. and gallant friend's proposal was inconsistent with the object of the Bill. They were aiming at something much more thorough-going than the Volunteer Force as at present constituted. They wished to make the position of the Territorial soldier more akin to that of the Regular soldier, and they had taken as their type the Yeomanry. The responsibility of the Territorial soldier would be greater than that of the Volunteer. Therefore they thought it right that a man should know at the end of his time that he was entitled to his discharge, and that it should be open to him to say whether he would go on or not. Moreover, it was also proposed that a man should be able to go into a Reserve, in which he would get less training, but would still be available for rejoining his battalion in case of war. He did not share his hon. and gallant friend's fears.

MR. WYNDHAM said he would like to adduce one practical reason against the Amendment. In the Auxiliary Forces there was sometimes a difficulty as to what should be done with a non-commissioned officer who had committed no fault, although he was not the best man for the post. While he might be damaging the troops, they could not get rid of him without causing a feeling of injustice. But they could without hurting his feelings say that they were not going to accept his re-engagement. On that ground he was against the Amendment.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he did not agree with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover. He thought what had fallen from the hon. Member for East Edinburgh had great force in it. The less formality proposed in connection with the Territorial Army the better chance of its success. He could not agree with the statement that there was the slightest difficulty in getting rid of a non-commissioned officer who was not fit for his post. They could get rid of him by a friendly word without hurting his feelings. The regulation was perfectly clear as to the age limit. The maximum age limit, which was never departed from in the Volunteers, was fifty-five, and the rule for officers was fifty-eight.

AN HON. MEMBER: After thirty-eight years service.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that the ordinary Volunteer could not serve beyond fifty-five years of age. Did the hon. Gentleman think that a man could go on serving till the day of judgment? He asked the right hon. Gentleman to accept the advice of the hon. Member behind him not to hamper the Territorial Army with all these restrictions, which seemed to be dictated by a desire to make it an impossible force.

*MR. McCRAE said he was very sorry that his right hon. friend had not accepted his Amendment, which was intended to perfect the machinery of the Bill. But as both Front Benches were against it, he begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) moved an Amendment providing that a man who had served his four years' term should be able to re-engage from year to year rather than for a further period of four years. From practical experience he was sure there would be great difficulty about a re-engagement for four years, or for any period of a definite character beyond one year. A man was always pleased when he got to the end of the period of three or four years for which he had enrolled; and would not re-engage except from year to year. He thought it was particularly important that this question should be considered, because these old soldiers—he did not mean old men, but soldiers of experience—ought to be kept if possible, as they stiffened and strengthened the company, and nothing should be done to discourage them from re-engagement from year to year. Moreover, the system of re-engagement from year to year facilitated the getting rid of non-commissioned officers who were doing no good. It would be very easy to draw up a form of oath which would obviate re-attestation on re-engagement for one year. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 24, to leave out from the beginning to the word 'and' in line 27, and insert the words 'may, on the conclusion of his engagement, be re-engaged from year to year.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*MR. HALDANE said that the hon. Member had not noticed that the words of the clause permitted what he desired to be done. These words were that every man enlisted under this part of the Act "shall be enlisted to serve for such a period as may be prescribed, not exceeding four years, reckoned from the date of his attestation." There was nothing to prevent a man re-engaging from year to year, or for two years. He wished, however, to leave the period of re-engagement open. If a man would re-engage for a period of four years, he was far more valuable as a reserve in making their mobilisation arrangements. The Amendment of the hon. Gentleman would deprive the Government of that latitude, and for that reason they wished to keep the clause as it stood.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) thought the words of the Amendment would be more useful than the words of the clause as it stood.

Viscount HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said after their first period of service they would not get men to re-engage for more than a year, and it would be most disastrous if the men were compelled to re-engage for four years. In the Yeomanry they had had experience of re-engagements from year to year, and they had no difficulty in getting the men to do so, if they had not to sign a paper, and take the oath again. He pressed the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment, which he thought would be a safeguard.

Mr. WYNDHAM hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not maintain the attitude he had taken in regard to the Amendment. He thought it was for Parliament to decide what was the best period for re-engagement. With all due respect to the Army Council, he did not think the Council were in a position to know what was best for each member of the Territorial Force. If there was a rule laid down that four years should be the period of re-engagement, the country would lose the services of a great many men whom it was desirable to retain, while a great many would be retained in the force for four years of whom it was better to get rid. The safe plan ought to be adopted of re-engagement for one year, leaving the matter to the commanding officer.

Mr. COURTHOPE said he wished to call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to the fact that this point in the Bill was the one of which the rank and file in the Volunteers were afraid. There were a great many men in the Volunteers who hoped to go on serving their country for a long time, and this was the one thing which they had picked out of the Bill of which they went in fear. He therefore did not think that they would be satisfied with the right hon. Gentleman's announcement that power was taken to make regulations.

*Mr. HALDANE said that power was taken to make regulations prescribing an alternative period, and they would be made before the men were asked to serve under them.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS did not think that the declaration of the right hon. Gentleman would satisfy the Volunteers. They did not want to come under the Act until they knew what its conditions were. They were willing to serve for four years, but they wanted at the end of that period to go on from year to year, and they did not want one Army Council to say that they should go on for four years, another to say they should go on for three, another two, and another one year. This was a very important matter, and before the Bill was passed they ought to know what the arrangements were to be.

*Mr. HALDANE said the regulations would be published. Alterations in them might be required after a time due to altered social conditions or other circumstances, and he thought it would be an act of unwisdom to tie the hands of the War Office so as to prevent them from making a change.

Mr. LUTTRELL (Devonshire, Tavistock) urged the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider his decision, as he thought the Amendment would be desirable.

Mr. WYNDHAM assured the right hon. Gentleman that all that had been said about the feeling of the Volunteers was equally true of the Yeomanry in this matter. Was the position taken up by the right hon. Gentleman a consistent one in regard to the penalties to be inflicted on a man leaving before his four years had expired? Had the right hon. Gentleman not been disposed to be too lenient, and would it not be better that a man should come in for four years and look that far ahead and then go on from year to year? There were a number of reasons which might prevent a man after four years from binding himself in advance for a longer period than a year, and he could not see what was the use of the right hon. Gentleman's insisting upon four years when those who had knowledge and were interested in the Auxiliary Forces would tell him that he would get more men under a year to year system than by binding them for four years.

*COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.) suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should on Report bring up the clause in such a form that it would allow of re-enlistment for four years or alternatively from year to year. That was what hon. Gentlemen wished, and he thought there would be a great advantage in having that elasticity. If a man had served four years he was undoubtedly worth keeping, and therefore they should make the regulations so elastic that they would induce him to stay on.

MR. ACLAND (Yorkshire, Richmond) said the provision in the Yeomanry Act was in the exact words of the clause as proposed by his right hon. friend and re-enlistments under that Act were from year to year. He had in his hand the Yeomanry form of declaration for re-enlistment, and it was simply a declaration in regard to service from year to year for three years, and that was done in exactly the same words as were proposed in this Bill; so that there need not be any fear that the Yeomanry, at all events, would have their conditions of service altered in any way.

MR. ASHLEY said the speech of the hon. Gentleman afforded the strongest reason for importing into the Bill some such words as were suggested. Similar words had acted very excellently in the case of the Yeomanry, and they were therefore desirous of having the conditions of re-enlistment of that force extended to the Territorial Army. The hon. Member had said that the Yeomanry need not be afraid that their conditions of service would be altered; but surely, under the Bill as it at present stood, the regulations might be changed. As they found something which seemed to meet the case of the Yeomanry, and was satisfactory to the Army Council and the Government, why should they not embody it in the Bill?

*MR. HALDANE said he would further consider the matter before the Report stage. As at present advised, he thought the Yeomanry form the best, but if he could express the substance of the desire expressed by the Committee he would do so. He did not want to tie his hands, however, and it was understood that a man had the option of choosing his period of service.

MR. COURTHOPE suggested that he should withdraw the Amendment and move the one suggested by the hon. Member for Monmouth to insert the words "or alternatively from year to year." If the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to accept that he would immediately save the time of the Committee by withdrawing his Amendment.

*MR. HALDANE was not sure that he could accept that, and thought it was better to leave the matter over. He would consider the matter between this and the Report stage. It was not possible to give an undertaking, but if he could arrive at the substance of what the Committee wished he would do it. He did not, however, want to tie his hands in regard to words which might turn out to be wrong.

MR. WYNDHAM asked whether they were to understand that a man under the control of the Army Council was to have the option of re-engaging.

*MR. HALDANE said the man would have the option, but for what periods he did not know. He did not quite see how he could work it, but it was understood that a man was to have the option; but he wanted the latitude to have these different periods. The matter was not so easy as it looked, but he would take time to consider it.

MR. COURTHOPE asked whether one of the alternative periods of service would be from year to year.

MR. HALDANE was understood to assent.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT moved to omit from sub-section (c) the words "provided that a soldier on re-engagement should make the prescribed declaration before a Justice of the Peace or an officer." He thought this was an Amendment which the Secretary of State might easily accept. There was no advantage in repeated declarations on oath before a Justice of the Peace. The man had been sworn in, and that was quite sufficient to carry him to the end of his service, and there was no use in lugging him off to the police court or the county court to make him take the oath again.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 27, to leave out from the word 'term' to the end of sub-section."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. ACLAND pointed out that a man in the Territorial Force would not enlist for an indefinite but for a definite period, and therefore the declaration he made on taking the oath and attesting for the first time could not be indefinitely extended to cover the whole period for which he might serve, although it might cover the period for which he enlisted. That was the whole point, and to provide for a reattestation was not lugging a man before a police or county court, because he could at any time go through the proceeding before an officer of his own unit. That could be done at any time during his last term of service, when the men were in camp and the junior subaltern came round to their tents. It was not a difficult or complicated formality, and nothing was more simple. It was desirable in order that a man should be made to think, and not drift on from year to year as many men were allowed to do. The man was engaged for a definite period, and his service should not be allowed to extend beyond that period without a formality of this nature, which was of the simplest kind.

MR. ASHLEY said that the Yeomanry were at present re-engaged without all these formalities, and if it was possible in the case of the Yeomanry why should it not be possible in the case of the Territorial Army.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said it had been stated that there was no fresh declaration from year to year.

*MR. HALDANE said he had a copy of the declaration. The arrangement was that when the Imperial Yeoman re-engaged he re-engaged for the period of—whatever it might be—and then came the declaration—

"I do declare that I will faithfully serve His Majesty, his heirs, and successors for a further period of one year from the end of my current term of engagement in the Imperial Yeomanry in any part of the United Kingdom for the defence of the same provided my services should so long be required."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said it was not worth pressing, but he might say that anything in the way of unnecessary formalities would prevent, in many cases, men re-engaging, and that if they chose to insist on these formalities they must take the responsibility of so doing.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT moved to omit the sub-section providing for the payment of a sum not exceeding £5 on discharge by the Territorial soldier. He objected to the man who voluntarily undertook the defence of his country being fined. If a £5 fine had been inflicted on a man who did not enlist, that would have been a sensible provision. Judge Bryn Roberts, for many years a well-known Member of the House, once stated that for every man killed in battle he would have one civilian executed—that that, in his opinion, would be the best way of preserving peace. He certainly thought that the man who did not enlist should be fined. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, to omit lines 40 and 41."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*MR. HALDANE said he was surprised that the hon. and gallant Gentleman should have made this Motion, for nobody knew better that the sub-section introduced nothing which was not an existing practice in Volunteer corps. The hon. and gallant Gentleman knew that when a man joined a corps it took security from him that if he left he should give back some part of the expense incurred in his training. Every man who joined was bound by the rules of the corps, and a scale was usually drawn up under which, if a man who had only been a year in the corps left it, he had to pay more than the man who had served longer, because the loss was greater. The payment was by way of compensation to the public for the money spent on the man's training. No scale had been put in here, because it required a good deal of thinking out, but it was proposed to make a scale by regulation, under which a little only would be taken from the man who had served a long time, and more from the man who had served only a short time—in other words, to carry out a system which was familiar to Volunteer corps to-day. Power would, however, be taken to remit or reduce the payment in special circumstances. Where, for instance, a man had to leave the force for family or other good reasons, or where he had to remove from one part of the country to another, it would be very hard on him to be called on to pay.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle) said this was a most important point when read in conjunction with the rest of the clause, it being subsequently provided that a man who was disobedient or misconducted himself was to be discharged. Hence the sub-section placed a premium on disobedience, because if a man was hard up—and there were many who would join the Territorial Force to whom £5, or even £2, would be a consideration—he would have an easy way of getting out of paying by not doing what he was told. If the Territorial Force was to be a useful force it was essential that there should be some discipline; and while he agreed with a man being fined for leaving before his term had finished, he also thought the right hon. Gentleman must make it clear that when a man was discharged for disobedience, the corps should have some claim to getting the fine out of him.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the payment now made under the civil contract between the commanding officer and the man was not for the expense of training, but to recoup the cost of the uniform supplied to him. The man was bound to serve a certain time or pay a certain sum of money, but the contract was a very elastic one, and it was made with the commanding officer, a man the Volunteer knew and had confidence in. To leave the matter to the Army Council or Territorial Association was quite a different thing. If it were left to the right hon. Gentleman himself, he would have no objection, but they all knew he was here to-day and gone to-morrow and they could not expect to have a successor so genial and able.

COLONEL R. WILLIAMS hoped the Amendment would not be pressed; he was quite certain, from what he knew of Volunteers, that they must have some sort of pecuniary fines.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 40, to leave out the words 'His Majesty,' and insert the words, 'the association for the county for which he was enlisted.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT pointed out that it was under the commanding officer of the corps that the Volunteer was enrolled. The county association had no individual knowledge of him, and probably it would only meet once in six months. If the man paid the £5, the unit to which he belonged ought to have the money.

MR. HALDANE said under the Bill the county association would manage all the business, and they should have the cash with which to do it.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) thought the money ought to go to the particular unit to which the man belonged. The right hon. Gentleman ought not to merge all these battalions into the entity of the County Association. The County Association in the West Riding might have twenty or thirty battalions; the County Association of London would have twenty-seven. He thought the money from these fines ought to be credited to the individual unit from which the men resigned.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA (Oxford) said that in the case of the Yeomanry and Militia the fines invariably went to the regimental coffers, and he was quite sure that it would be to the advantage of the various regiments that the same system should obtain in the Territorial Army. If a man broke his engagement the fine which he paid ought to go to the advantage of the unit to which he belonged rather than to the association.

MR. ACLAND said the Bill proposed to reform the system of administration, and in the Territorial Army, instead of the commanding officers being responsible for the administration, it would be the County Association. The loss would not be to the particular corps when a man left, but to the association, and, therefore, the money to make good that loss should go to the association. The association which had to provide the money for grants had a right to receive the money paid in fines.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted.

*MR. ASHLEY moved to leave out the words 'five pounds,' and insert the words 'in any particular case the sum therefor specified in the schedule to the Act.' It had been decided, he said, that a fine should be levied, and they had to consider what the amount of the fine should be. He had placed an Amendment to the schedule on the Paper to substitute for the fine of £5 a sliding scale. If a man left within one year after his attestation, he should be liable to a fine of £4; if within two years, £3; if after two years and within three, £2; if after three years or any time after he had re-engaged (they knew that there was to be re-engagement from year to year), £1. He thought that was common sense, as surely a man who had seen three years service to the State ought to be able to leave under easier circumstances than the man who left after three, six, or nine months service. The man who left so soon had put the State to considerable expense and trouble. The man who had served five or six or ten years ought to be able to go out on very easy terms. Therefore, on the ground of justice he asked the Committee to consider his proposal, which made a difference between the man who had served a short time and the man who had served for a considerable length of time. With a sliding scale of fines, men would be induced probably to stay on longer with the corps in order to reduce the amount of the fine to be paid; it would in reality act as a sort of bonus to continue with the Territorial Army. If the schedule which he suggested were put in the Bill, it would act as a guide to the local associations as to what scale of fines they should exact. After all, it was purely permissive; they had the power to remit fines altogether or partially. By his plan, they would get uniformity all over the country. The County Associations would turn to the Act, see what Parliament considered to be approximately the right amount, and then take action upon it. If they simply put £5 in the Bill, they might have one County Association fining practically up to the limit, and over the border another County Association imposing practically no fine at all. That was not at all a sound system, and it might create bad feeling between the men of one County Association and the men of another. He thought that was very much to be deprecated. With regard to the sliding scale which he suggested, he had consulted a number of Volunteer officers in reference to it, and it was framed on the advice they had given from their practical experience. What he urged was that the man who had served four, five, six, or ten years should not be liable to be fined to the same extent as a man who had only served six months.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 41, to leave out the words, 'five pounds,' and to insert the words, 'in any particular case the sum therefor specified in the Schedule to the Act.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'five pounds' stand part of the clause."

*MR. HALDANE said this was a matter which had to be dealt with by regulations. There were different arms and different corps, which stood on a different footing. For instance, some of the corps required higher training. In the Clyde Corps of Engineers the fine of £5 always remained £5, whether the time was long or short, because the training was such a very important matter. They took the view that the longer a man was trained, the greater was his value to the State. Or, they might take the instance of the cost of training cavalry, which was greater than that of training infantry.

They had to distinguish between these cases and it was essentially a matter to be dealt with by regulation and not by a rigid schedule such as the hon. Member would put into the Bill. In the circumstances, he preferred that the matter should be dealt with by regulation rather than by putting anything into the Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT thought there was good sense in what the Secretary for War had said, that the matter should be dealt with by regulation and not by the Bill. If a schedule were put into the Bill it could not be altered except by legislation. He pointed out that the money was paid not in respect of training but with regard to clothing. That was a comparatively small matter. He noticed that the Secretary for War spoke of the fine as a recompense for the cost of training; but that was not so; it was a reimbursement for the cost of providing a man with a uniform, and the fine should in amount recognise that the value of the uniform became less year by year. It was essential that there should be a sliding scale.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said the remarks made by the Secretary for War upon this point seemed to be at variance with the attitude he took up yesterday. Was the scale to be prescribed by the association, or by regulations issued by the War Office, or by the House of Commons each year? How could anyone who wished to join the Territorial Force ascertain under what scale he was enlisting? He would also like to know if that scale could be altered at a moment's notice. The Amendment laid down exactly what a man would have to pay if he desired to resign. He knew of nothing more injurious than a system which compelled men to remain in a force when they would prefer to pay something in order to be released from their undertaking. Many hon. Members who had spoken had pointed out the difficulty which would be experienced under this scheme of retaining in the Territorial Force men of the Militia class. Those were just the kind of men who would find it difficult to pay a heavy fine. If the Territorial Force was to be recruited from the old Militia class of men—who must necessarily from the backbone of any such scheme—it was absolutely necessary to make the conditions to suit that class. Those men were drawn mostly from the working classes and they were not prepared to pay such a large fee as would be exacted by the Secretary of State for War. He intended to support the Amendment.

COLONEL HERBERT hoped that in the framing of regulations the principle of a sliding scale in proportion to length of service would be accepted. He had on the Paper a similar Amendment to that which had been moved by the hon. Member for Blackpool, and he was in entire agreement with him upon the point. He hoped the Secretary of State for War or the Financial Secretary to the War Office would be prepared to announce that they accepted the proposal. There certainly ought to be a sliding scale under which every man would know what he would be called upon to pay if he wanted to leave the corps.

LORD BALCARRES supported the proposal for a scale in lieu of a lump sum, and reminded the Committee that a man would be under further penalty if he did not deliver up his equipment in good condition. The schedule would not deprive the association of discretion, but it would give the local authority an indication of the intention of Parliament. He did not think that the Secretary for War should be altogether a dictator by these regulations. Parliament should not divest itself of responsibility in this important matter. The question had aroused considerable interest amongst Volunteers. He differed entirely from his hon. friend who said that the fine was intended to recoup the loss in training. He did not look at it from that point of view at all. He thought the fine was intended as a deterrent both on thoughtless enlistment and on capricious leaving of a corps. While he thought some fine was right and necessary, he strongly disapproved of its being put down at £5 subject to remission. A man who might commit the military offence of leaving a corps without proper or adequate notice would not be comforted by the knowledge that the county association, or the officer appointed by the association, would be entitled to reduce the sum to a nominal figure—say, a halfpenny. If £5 were put in the Bill, that would be taken as the indication given by the Government of what the fine was to be. The amount was too large. He could give scores of cases in which men in mining counties had been obliged to leave their regiments on account of having to go to other districts for work. If a man who had to migrate in order to follow his trade was to be subject to a fine of £5, it seemed to him that it would put a certain check on the man's anxiety to enlist in a corps. He did not believe the knowledge that there were restrictions and exemptions would bring particular comfort to that man. He believed that nine out of ten Volunteers, if asked what was the condition on which they might leave a corps, would say that it was a fine of £5. He was strongly in favour of a sliding scale, but he was not wedded to the figures in the scale which had been submitted.

COLONEL R. WILLIAMS believed the fine of £5 would frighten young men, especially in the agricultural districts, from joining the Volunteers. It would be no use telling a man that the fine would be very much less. It would be very difficult to get it out of his head that the fine was £5. He suggested that an Amendment might be introduced providing that the fine should be such sum as was prescribed in a sliding scale under which the maximum should not exceed £4. He would like to have the sliding scale in the Bill.

MR. MADDISON thought they were all agreed in accepting the principle of a sliding scale. What they should consider was how it was to be carried out. There were some hon. Members who thought it should go into the Bill, and others who wished it to go into the rules. It appeared to him that if it were put in the Bill, they could not provide for the differences between the various corps which had been referred to by the right hon. Gentleman. If it were put in the schedule, they could make allowance for those differences.

MR. ASHLEY said the local associations would consider that. They could reduce the fine to a shilling.

MR. MADDISON said he could not help feeling that there would be more freedom if the various corps were allowed to make their own regulations.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe) said it seemed to him that the Government were proposing something which would be a deterrent to young men joining the Volunteers. They were often told that the only alternative to this Bill was conscription. If the effect of this proposal would be to deter people from coming in, he thought it would be a mistake to agree to it. If the proposed force was to be a purely Volunteer Army, surely there should be nothing put in which would change the present system so far as the fine was concerned. Whatever regulations now existed with regard to Volunteers joining or leaving should be retained without change. If they enacted that the fine for leaving was to be £5, it would deter young men of sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen from joining. He urged that they should not put a condition in the Bill which would prevent men from coming in, and thereby enable the Government to say, if the scheme failed, that they must adopt conscription.

*MR. COURTHOPE supported the proposal for a sliding scale. When the Bill was introduced he differed from many of his friends on that side of the House who were very much alarmed at the proposal of a £5 fine. But since that time this £5 fine had been a great deal talked about, and the rank and file of the Volunteers had become very much alarmed about the matter. He would like to point out a practical consideration. It was well known by the men that a court of summary jurisdiction always considered a defendant's circumstances before imposing a fine; and fines imposed on Volunteers for failing to become efficient were never more than a few shillings. The fine of £5 would not act as a deterrent to men leaving, but it would most certainly act as a deterrent to men joining. He spoke from experience, having been a Volunteer adjutant. He had had some experience in endeavouring to impose fines under the present system. An agricultural labourer might be receiving a wage of only 12s. or 14s. a week, with perhaps an invalid mother to support, and there were very few cases in which any appreciable fine would be imposed by the local bench on such a man for breaking his service. He hoped the Secretary for War would see his way to accept a sliding scale.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.) said that at present the commanding officers had the power of imposing fines, and it was well known that they put a sliding scale of fines in force.

*MR. COURTHOPE said that it was not the commanding officer but the local bench who would impose the fines.

MR. BUCHANAN said that that was a matter on which everybody could form his own opinion. It was not intended always to enforce the maximum amount scheduled. Though there was in reality no point of principle involved, it was needful to possess some kind of power to impose a maximum fine, giving at the same time an absolute discretion and power of relaxation.

MR. ASHLEY said he would rather have the maximum fine inserted in the Bill than leave it indefinitely to the County Associations. An hon. Member had spoken in reference to the difference of treatment between the Yeomanry and the other branches of the Auxiliary services. So far as length of service was concerned all branches should be placed on an equality; but so far as conditions of service was concerned that should be left to the County Associations who would take them into account in imposing the full fine or relaxing it.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 202; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 204)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W (Tower Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes

Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Flether, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cleland, J. W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Glover, Thomas
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull).
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
M'Callum, John M.
Morpeth, Viscount
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, James (Halifax)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Steadman, W. C.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Watt, Henry A.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Craig and Mr. Courthope.

MR. ASHLEY moved an Amendment to provide that where, for good and sufficient cause, the delivery of the arms and appointments was impossible, a man desiring his discharge should be allowed to pay the value of the things. As the Bill stood the Territorial soldier had to fulfil three conditions in order to get out of the Territorial Army. He had to give three months notice in writing to his commanding officer, to pay £5 or such sum as might be thought fit, and to deliver up in good order, wear and tear only excepted, all arms, clothing, and appointments being public property issued to him. That he might not be able to do.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he understood the Government accepted the Amendment. Was it necessary to argue further?

MR. ASHLEY said he only intended to do so shortly.

MR. BUCHANAN said the Government accepted the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 3, at end, to add the words 'or, in cases where for any good and sufficient cause the delivery of the property aforesaid is impossible, on paying the value thereof.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question, "That those words be their inserted," put, and agreed to.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH moved to leave out of the proviso to Subsection 3 the words "for the association for the county or for any officer authorised by the association," in order to insert the words "for his commanding officer." He said that the power to dispense with the conditions as to notice and payment properly belonged to the commanding officer, and ought not to be usurped by the association. If this subsection of the Bill was left as it stood, the authority delegated by the War Office to the commanding officer and his sense of responsibility would most assuredly be weakened.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words, 'the association for the county or for any officer authorised by the association,' and insert the words 'his commanding officer.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Ashley.

SIR H. VINCENT hoped the Government would be able to accept the Amendment. There could be no doubt whatever that it was the commanding officer and not the association which would have the knowledge of individuals, and the more the administration of a regiment was left to the commanding officer the better it would be for the regiment.

MR. ACLAND thought the noble Lord and the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite had read this subsection as though the words "or for any officer authorised by the association" were not in it. The great importance of the commanding officer and of his retaining all reasonable powers were so universally recognised that one could not conceive of an association, except in very special circumstances, doing otherwise than delegating this power to him if the commanding officer was willing to exercise it. He was not sure it was proper to leave the power of the association so that it should in every case be delegated to commanding officers, because the latter might be put in an invidious position. The money for the fines went to the association, and the commanding officer had ceased to have any interest in them, and he might be tempted, as the matter did not concern his battalion, to let men off. He would rather have this dispensing power vested in someone else. He could conceive that if it were the universal rule that the commanding officer should be the dispensing officer, the commanding officer of one battalion might get the reputation of always letting off men, while another commanding officer might take a much stricter view of his duties, and there would thus be differences between battalion and battalion in the same association, which would be very undesirable. It was better to leave the matter to the association, with full power to delegate it to the commanding officer or any other officer.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER admitted that the situation was very undesirable when on such an important Amendment as this the hon. Gentleman opposite was put up to give the Committee the opinion of the Government. It was most undesirable that he should answer for the Government when the Financial Secretary to the War Office and the Under-Secretary of State for India were both present. He thought his hon. friend should have some reply from responsible member upon the merits of the Amendment.

MR. BUCHANAN was understood to say the Government were unable to accept the Amendment. The Association would act in the main through the commanding officer. The commanding officers would be largely represented on the association, and no sensible association would act in strong opposition to the views of the commanding officers. But in accordance with the principles of the Bill and of the clauses already passed this was a duty of which the responsibility must remain with the association.

*MR. COURTHOPE said that both the Financial Secretary and the hon. Member for the Richmond Division had given strong arguments in favour of accepting the Amendment. Both of them had said it was ridiculous to imagine that any association would do otherwise than place this power upon the shoulders of sensible commanding officers. He was assuming that the Army Council were going to be sensible enough to remove a commanding officer who was not himself sensible. That being the case the whole objection of the Government dropped to the ground. There should be nothing but sensible commanding officers. They were told that the County Associations would place these powers on the commanding officers; but if that were so why was there any objection to putting it in the Bill? The Government had said that they agreed with all these Amendments; they accepted them in principle, but they did not mean to have them in the Bill. It was most extraordinary if the Government intended to place the powers upon the shoulders of the commanding officers that they would not have it put down in black and white. If that was really their intention they should accept the Amendment.

MR. McCRAE regretted that the Government could not accept the Amendment. He thought this clause was the reddest of red tape and must have been drafted by a most military-minded man. Was the County Association to undertake the duty of clothing each battalion? If so, it must have a very large depot for the storage of uniforms, etc. Was the Territorial soldier to "deliver up his uniform in good order" to the County Association or the commanding officer? If the uniforms were to be delivered up to the commanding officer, then he ought to have the responsibility. In the district of Edinburgh they had three infantry battalions clothed in different uniforms. Were these uniforms to be stored at the County Association's depot, or were they to be placed under the control of the commanding officer? The clause had been defended only on the plea that it would never be put in force. It was preposterous to put the County Association in the position in which it would be placed by the clause. He hoped that in the interests of discipline the Government would reconsider the point.

SIR GILBERT PARKER suggested that the view of both the Government and the mover of the Amendment might be maintained if they would agree to an Amendment to the Amendment providing that it should be lawful for the commanding officer, authorised by the County Association, to remit the fine. Then the commanding officer would be responsible to the County Association. In that case they would have responsibility established in the County Association and the commanding officer acting for the County Association. The Commanding Officer would then be responsible to the

County Association, and report to them his reasons for remitting the fine upon discharging a man. He thought probably the Government would be prepared to accept the Amendment in view of the fact that the arguments of the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield and of the hon. Member for East Edinburgh were unanswerable, and also of the fact that those Gentlemen were, on the whole, friendly to the Bill, and were ready to accept its provisions and make it workable.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN Gloucestershire, Stroud) expressed the opinion that it was a great pity that the Government could not accept the suggestion. It had been pointed out that if the Bill remained as it was, the commanding officer would have no interest in the matter, and that would be so because the responsibility would be with the County Association. The commanding officer would find himself in a very unpleasant position if he were inclined to let a man off the fine and the County Association would not allow him to do so. This was a question, not of administration, but of discipline, and he regretted that the Government had not accepted the Amendment.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said the Bill provided that a man was to give three months notice in writing to his commanding officer if he wished his discharge, but the Bill also provided that the association could override the commanding officer's decision and judge whether the reasons for the discharge were sufficient to allow of its being granted. If the idea suggested by the hon. Member for Richmond were carried out, it would simply mean that an official appointed by the association would act as a sort of bailiff to get out of the man the money which should go to the colonel of the regiment, who had the interests of the whole of the men at heart. The hon. and gallant Gentleman had struck a wrong note entirely when he said that this matter should not be left to the colonel commanding the regiment. A regiment of first class Yeomanry or a battalion of Infantry should have their interests entrusted to the colonel commanding, and they ought not to be entrusted entirely to the County Association. The association would put in an independent man, just as a county council or a board of guardians would put in a man to collect a rate, and the commanding officer would be passed over in regard to the matter. If such a principle were adopted, and if colonels were to be treated in that way, the Bill would fall entirely to the ground and would never work. The clause said that the reasons for the discharge were to be sufficient and urgent. Who was to be the judge of the sufficiency and urgency? Surely the man who would be the best judge of these matters was the man who commanded the regiment, who was intimate with the men of the corps, who knew them, and was best able to judge when a man was entitled to his discharge. Who knew the men best—the association or the commanding officer, who had his men on parade, whose adjutant was in the closest touch with them all the year round, and who had the knowledge necessary to enable him to come to a determination as to whether the man should have his discharge? The association had not that knowledge of the regiment which was possessed by the commanding officer; but they would delegate a man, John Jones or whoever it might be, to collect the money which should go to the colonel of the regiment; and they would thus be starting the Territorial Force with the feeling that its commanding officers were not trusted by the association, the right hon. Gentleman, or the officials of the War Office. The Financial Secretary had said that the object was to keep the men as much as possible within the purview of the County Association. By all means let them keep matters within the County Association, but when they delegated a man to perform certain duties, then let them trust that man right up to the hilt. If the County Associations were to dwarf the powers of the commanding officers, the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman would be starting very badly. It would be cruelty to clip the wings of commanding officers in the way proposed. It was possible that one County Association might appoint a representative who exacted all the fine, while across the border another County Association might appoint an officer who was easy and did not impose fines; and the men would say, "Oh, here is a man who is soft-hearted and does not fine us, we will go there." Therefore what the hon. and gallant Gentleman had pointed out as touching the colonel would certainly touch the person appointed by the County Association. The value of the clause would certainly not be enhanced, and he had much pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

MR. WYNDHAM said he had much pleasure in supporting the eloquent appeal made by his hon. and gallant friend, who had some knowledge of these matters. Under Sub-section 3 of the clause, notice was to be given to the commanding officer. Unless the Amendment were accepted they would give an appeal from the commanding officer to the County Association. It would be difficult to devise anything more subversive of discipline. He was sure that that point need not be insisted upon. The right hon. Gentleman had again and again assured them that the Territorial Force was to be commanded by military officers, and only administered by the County Associations. If the Amendment were passed, the soldier, if dissatisfied with the decision given, would have the ordinary channel of appeal, namely, he could bring the matter before the brigadier — up the ladder of military authority, to the brigadier if the Territorial Force was to be commanded by soldiers and not by civilians on the County Associations. Any appeal for the commanding officer ought to go. If they allowed an appeal from the commanding officer to the County Association they were transferring questions of discipline from the military authority to a civil body.

*MR. HALDANE said the point raised by the right hon. Gentleman was in substance whether this was a question relating to command or to administration. The Government wanted to separate command from administrative functions, and to give the administrative duties to the association. That was the real point in contest. If they turned to Clause 2, they would find that the County Associations had to administer the territorial units; and if they turned to Clause 8 they had to administer, among other things, the questions of clothes, arms, and equipment. These were clearly administrative items which concerned the association rather than the commanding officer. The Committee had decided that a man who broke his engagement had to pay £5 to cover the cost which the association had been put to in providing for his training and equipment. How could it be said that that was a question of command and not of administration? The three items to which he had referred were clearly administrative and concerned the association rather than the commanding officer. He thought the Committee forgot that the principle of the Bill was to separate command from administration. Then as to the composition of the association, it must be remembered that on the association there would be commanding officers, and they would have the assistance of the brigadier-in-chief. The Government had left power to the association to delegate it to any other officer to say on what grounds a man might be let off. That was the only way of dealing with the matter consistently with practical common sense and sound business principles. If they took the other course they chose a commanding officer who was not concerned with this matter of administration and put him in an invidious position. The association would want the decision of some officer. That officer might be the commanding officer, but it was better to leave it to the association to say who the officer should be.

Mr. COURTHOPE asked why, if everything else in this sub-clause was to be dealt with by the County Association as a purely administrative matter, was three months notice to be given? He contended that the commanding officer was the natural person to settle the pros and cons as to whether an individual soldier should be let off. The power ought to be entrusted to the commanding officer right through the section. Surely it ought to be the commanding officer's duty to consider whether or not a man was entitled to some remission of the heavy penalties and liabilities or whether the utmost rigour of the law ought to be enforced.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the County Association was to have these direct appeals and go into their economic effects. That was purely farcical. They must put the responsibility on the commanding officer. If the commanding officer granted discharges unduly so as to involve the association in undue expense it would be time to point out to him that he had not a proper care for public economy. They could not dissipate the responsibility between the commanding officer on the one hand and the county association on the other.

Viscount CASTLEREAGH appealed to the Secretary for War to accept the Amendment and expressed his regret that the right hon. Gentleman had attempted to support the very flimsy arguments which had been addressed to the Committee by his subordinates. He could not agree with the hon. Member for Gravesend in the suggestion he had made to take away a small part of the authority of the commanding officer. He would like to see that authority retained and if anything made stronger. As regarded his own regiment the commanding officer should be an autocrat, and everything connected with his regiment should go through the channel of the commanding officer. The question was whether the commanding officer should be looked upon as the responsible individual or not. Commanding officers on both sides of the House had given their view upon the point in the absence of the right hon. Gentleman, and obviously there must be some substance in the Amendment.

*Mr. CARLILE supported the Amendment. He thought there was a real necessity for retaining the control and services of the commanding officers. There should be no question of delegating to County Associations or officers appointed by them the powers which naturally lay with the commanding officers. No commanding officer worth his salt would tolerate the meddling of the County Association. In the County Associations there would be a number of commanding officers. The commanding officer of one battalion would not tolerate dictation by the commanding officers of other battalions, however good they might be. The right hon. Gentleman would be well advised to allow this power to be administered by the commanding officers. He would not regret doing so, for it would save him a great deal of trouble, as Minister of War, in finding commanding officers. It was not every man in a battalion who was suited to occupy a position of that kind. It was often very difficult to find them, and no doubt the result was that unsuitable men were sometimes appointed, very much to the detriment of the corps. Commanding officers had to meet a certain amount of expense in connection with their battalions, and, therefore, there was the double difficulty of finding men who had, not only the necessary qualifications, but the necessary means to occupy the position. If this proposal were left as it now stood in the Bill, there would be one ready-made source of difficulty to the Minister for War. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would realise that there were about him in this House commanding officers of experience, and that he would accept guidance from them on such practical details as this. He hoped there would be no delegation to the County Association, or to officers nominated by that association, of powers which naturally lay with the commanding officer with regard to the conditions on which the members of his battalion should be allowed to retire.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate) said that if the Secretary of State for War had been able to be present during the las three-quarters of an hour he would have found that there was a general feeling in all parts of the Committee in favour of some alteration in the wording of the clause. He did not think that the Amendment of the noble Lord quite met the case. He thought the right hon. Gentleman might very well accept the suggestion of the hon. Member for Gravesend. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he had waited for some time in the hope that the Secretary of State would rise and answer the appeal which had been made to him by hon. Members on his own side. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman could have been informed of the very strong opinion expressed on this subject by experienced Members on his own side as to the great necessity of meeting the Committee on this point. It was really not fair to the Committee or to the force he desired to create for the right hon. Gentleman to try to conduct the Bill with the obstinacy he had shown. There were Members in all parts of the House anxious to help him, and yet he would not accept a simple Amendment like that under discussion. It was certainly a matter in which the right hon. Gentleman could meet the general wishes of the Committee. If he was going to adopt *non possumus* attitude he had better drop the Bill altogether, for even if the Bill passed through this House, it would never pass the House of Lords.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY thought the right hon. Gentleman did not appreciate the necessity of discipline.

He did not believe in a Territorial Force or County Associations, but he knew it was impossible that such a scheme could have any success at all unless it was administered in strict accordance with discipline; and discipline could only be maintained by the man selected to command.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 279; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 205.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. H.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, H. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harlam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C. E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major, J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J. W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brodie, H. C.
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Cheetham, John Frederick
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber,Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Harwood, George
Hedges, A. Paget
Helmsley, Viscount
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col. W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Law,Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lond,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
O'Niell, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pirie, Duncan V.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorge D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stanley,Hn.A. (Lyulph(Chesh.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn. J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,Hon. C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Castlereagh and Captain Craig.

And, it being after half-past ten of the clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded:—

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 281; Noes, 124. (Division List No. 206.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.

Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts., Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J. Wynford(Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E. (Edinburgh,Central)
Price,Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J.M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley.Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor,Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(SomersetE.)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W. Dudley(Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams,Llewelyn Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn. A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt.Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett,A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.)
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan,Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker,Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts,S.(Sheffield. Ecclesall)
Rothschild,Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorge D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.

Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson,W.Mitchell (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col.W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby, De Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause 9:

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 277; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 207.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig,Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dunne,MajorE.Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansaa)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.

Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,Sir W. D.(Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C. E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S.(Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J.(Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampt'n
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewellyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.Sir Alex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.Sir H
Balfour,Rt Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Dension (York)
Faber,Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson,Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.

Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Edmund Talbot and Lord Balcarres.

Clause 10:

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 281; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 208.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman

Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)

Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col, Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause 11:

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 300; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 209.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A (Finsbury, E.)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J (Tynemouth)
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. C. G. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)

Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras,E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas(W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A(Glamorgan, E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W. Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex,F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balfour,Rt HnA.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie,H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,CharlesCurtis(Antrim, S.)
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt.W.V.(Hants,W.)

Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edmd's
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thomson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Sheffield,Sir Berkeley GeorgeD.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson,W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Lord Edmund Talbot and Lord Balcarres.

Clause 12:

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 289; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 210.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P, (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonport
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithness-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A, Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)

Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir Alfred James
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,SirJohn L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHnA.J.(City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow

Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wards, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Whereupon the CHAIRMAN left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

INJURED ANIMALS ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Objection being taken,

SIR HOWARD VINCENT appealed to hon. Members to withdraw their objection to a small and useful measure which provided that an animal which was so badly injured that it could not be moved without gross cruelty might on the certificate of a veterinary surgeon, be slaughtered.

Bill read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

INCEST BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

HOME WORK.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the conditions of labour in trades in which home work is prevalent, and the proposals, including those for the establishment of wages boards and the licensing of work places, which have been made for the remedying of existing abuses.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Twenty-one Members.

Committee accordingly nominated of, Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Bridgeman, Sir William Bull, Mr. Boland, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Chiozza Money, Mr. Joseph Devlin, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Fell, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Ernest Lamb, Mr. Massie, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Parkes, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stuart Samuel, Mr. Sherwell, Mr. Trevelyan, and Sir Thomas Whittaker.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Seven be the quorum. —(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 5th June, 1907.

LUCAS PEERAGE.

Report from the Committee for Privileges that the Petitioner Auberon Thomas Herbert hath made out his claim to the peerage title, dignity, and honour of Baron Lucas of Crudwell in the Peerage of England; made and agreed to; and resolved and adjudged accordingly; and Resolution and Judgment to be laid before His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves. Ordered, that all deeds, documents, and papers produced on behalf of the Petitioner by his agents, be delivered to the said agents.

LUCAS PEERAGE.

The evidence taken before the Committee for privileges to be printed.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Swansea Harbour Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th of May last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed.

Leeds Corporation Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill, London and North-Western Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Penrith Urban District Council Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed;

Bristol Corporation Bill; Burnley Corporation Bill.—Read 3^{a}, and passed.

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow.

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} to-morrow.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hastings be proposed to the House as a member of the Joint Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Marquess of Winchester; read, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AUSTRALASIA.

Further correspondence relating to the convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides. (In continuation of [Cd. 3288], January, 1907).

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3812. France (Bordeaux).
No. 3813. United States (Boston).

MINES.

First Report of the Royal Commission on Mines (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices, Vol. I.).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 1st June, 1907, respecting the addition of years to be assigned for pension purposes to the office of senior inspector under the Board of National Education in Ireland. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Order for the Day for resuming the debate with reference to the continuance of acts of lawlessness in various districts in Ireland, read.

*VISCOUNT HILL: My Lords, I feel that I should not be doing justice to my friends or to the loyal subjects of His Majesty in Ireland if I were not to support the appeal of the noble Marquess to His Majesty's Government to prevent the continuance of the terrible state of things which prevails in a number of districts in Ireland. I do not intend to take up your Lordships' time by repeating the arguments of previous speakers, but rather to confine myself to the speech of the noble Lord who replied yesterday for the Irish Office.

But before passing to Lord Denman's speech I should like to refer for a few moments to the condition of the county of Leitrim, which I do not think was mentioned by any noble Lords on this side of the House yesterday and was rather lightly treated by the noble Lord opposite. In doing so I cannot do better than refer to the statement of Mr. Justice Kenny at the Leitrim Quarter Sessions in March last. In his opening remarks Mr. Justice Kenny said—

> "He regretted that the general condition of the county of Leitrim, as appeared from the official statistics laid before him, showed that there was an increase in the number of specially reported cases. He would scarcely think it necessary to observe on the increase but for the fact that it was represented by that very odious form of crime—intimidation, threatening letters, and notices. The county inspector had informed him that a certain district in the country was in a very lawless condition, and that there were three families, represented by twelve people, who were wholly boycotted and received police protection, two other families receiving partial protection. One family existed in such a state of continual danger that there were three policemen quartered in their house."

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Justice Kenny stated that—

> "He wished he could say that the county was in a satisfactory condition, but the reports he had received prevented him being able to do so."

That was on March 4th of this year. On a later occasion Mr. Justice Kenny, after listening to the evidence and speeches in a case in the county court of Leitrim, said he asked himself whether they were living in a Christian country or a civilised community. The prisoner's counsel, appealing to the jury, had represented that the public looked on with feelings of admiration for what the crowd did on the day in question. Mr Justice Kenny, referring to that statement, said—

> "What does that mean? It means to suggest that the jurors were in sympathy with the lawbreakers, and that they had a feeling of admiration for a mob of 700 men who swept down on a few policemen who were protecting two boys bringing home provisions for their father, mother, and brothers. If the jurors sympathised with that, all he could say was that they were not fit to be jurors or to fill the most menial office one could conceive."

I have a friend who farms in that disturbed district, and he has on several occasions given me interesting information with regard to these disturbances. He happens to be a member of the United Irish League, but he only belongs to it for his own protection. He knows nothing about the rules or regulations and does not want to, except for the purpose of confiding information to the officials, if necessary. He is in close communication with the police. He has many boycotted neighbours in his district, and he tells me that there are many cases which are never reported at all, and that there are others to which the police dare not go on account of their numerical weakness, otherwise they would be severely handled and many of them probably shot. In this district there are several families who are quite unable to provide food for themselves. The noble Lord opposite may contradict that statement, but it is a fact nevertheless. I think I can substantiate that by informing your Lordships that a resolution was passed at a meeting of a branch of the United Irish League held at Sligo in February stating that the committee were informed on good authority that the grabbers were supplied with groceries and provisions at a certain store, describing grabbers as unclean persons, and declaring that respectable persons should keep away from their haunts. I have in my hand many other resolutions of a similar kind, but I will not detain the House by referring to them.

I now come to the speech of Lord Denman. In his opening remarks yesterday the noble Lord referred to Ireland as in the main peaceful. Probably it is. Lord Mayo, for instance, stated that he lived in a peaceful part of the country. But a statement of that kind is most misleading, especially to the Loyalists in Ireland. It rather substantiates the remark of the noble Marquess, which was challenged by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, as to what those in Ireland feel themselves. They feel that there is no use in reporting disturbances, because the statements of His Majesty's Government lead the people to believe that the Government either do not care about disturbances or are entirely blind to the fact that they exist. I am inclined to think that the statistics which the noble Lord gave us last night are not altogether correct, because I am informed that there are many cases which are not officially reported, and there are other cases which the police know of but dare not approach on account of the weakness of the force behind them. This tends to substantiate the statement made from this side of the House last night and challenged from the Front Bench opposite.

The noble Lord who replied on behalf of the Irish Office told us that the Government were increasing the police force in the disturbed districts; but what in the world is the use of that if the law is not carried out? The police can arrest people and bring them before the courts, but in nine cases out of ten the main object of the jurors is to shield them, and no matter how great the offence is they fine the prisoner 1s. and think they have done their duty. Indeed, they dare not do any more. In the early part of this year Mr. Birrell, speaking of the Criminal Law and Procedure Act, said that as far as the administration is concerned the Act is, to all intents and purposes, dead and buried. When these statements are published no wonder disturbances go on.

Another statement which I was very much surprised to hear, and which I think will have been read in the newspapers this morning with general astonishment, was the declaration of the noble Lord who represents the Irish Office that—

> "In the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the driving of cattle could not, of itself, be considered a crime of a very serious nature.

If driving cattle off a man's farm is not a crime of a very serious nature I do not know what is. The main object is to turn him off his land. He is boycotted, and is unable to obtain food for his family. If that is not sufficient to make him surrender, other injurious proceedings are taken against him, and he is mobbed and probably shot. When such statements on the part of His Majesty's Government are circulated in Ireland how can we expect an improved condition of things? My humble opinion is that if His Majesty's Government intend to increase the police in Ireland they must see that the Crimes Act is carried out. That Act was a terror to law-breakers. Embodied in that Act there was a power to the Lord-Lieutenant to suppress any organisation which encouraged or aided persons to commit crime, acts of violence, or intimidation, or interfered with the administration of the law. Under such a wise Act as that it would be possible at any time for His Majesty's Government to suppress several of the Nationalist organisations engaged in the propagation of lawlessness. Instead of allowing such an excellent Act to be removed from the Statute Book, true wisdom would suggest that there is need for it to be enforced at once.

There was a statement not very long ago in one of the newspapers that the Nationalist Party had an unseen body behind it. We have not been told what that body is, but from information I gather that it includes the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the organisation known as Sinn Fein, and their main object is to do everything contrary to the ruling of the English Government. The Government may say—indeed Lord Denman, in the conclusion of his speech last night, informed us—that it is a very bad policy to bring out these disturbances. That is just what the Nationalists do not want us to do. They tell their people that they must carry on their business in the courts in a rational way, because if they do not, they will be giving their enemies a hold to fight against them in their efforts to obtain Home Rule for Ireland.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I think that my noble friends behind me from Ireland who have listened to this debate have at any rate one cause for congratulation in that the speech of the noble Lord who represents the Irish Office differed considerably in tone from the speeches that we expect and that we get from the Chief Secretary in another place. The Chief Secretary really seems to think that Ireland exists primarily for the purpose of affording him opportunities to make jokes about his opponents, and it was in the course of making one of these jokes that he described my hon. friends in another place as carrion crows. At any rate we can congratulate ourselves on the fact that that sort of wit was absent from the speech of the noble Lord opposite last night. Therefore the task of attacking him this evening can be for us a very much more friendly one than if expressions such as I have quoted had been used.

But if we have this small amount of satisfaction as the result of the debate so far, there is very little else with which we can be satisfied. Though the tone of the noble Lord's speech was perfectly satisfactory, as, if he will allow me to say so, his speeches in this House always are as regards civility to his opponents, we certainly have ground for complaint in the absence of what I may call any tone of disapprobation of the condition of things that has been proved to exist in Ireland. The noble Lord approached the subject it seemed to me, without at all realising—why should he? He does not live in Ireland himself—the seriousness of the condition of things to the people immediately concerned. He began by an elaborate statement of statistics, which I confess he read so fast that I was unable to copy them down, much less fully to grasp their meaning, but which I am sure we would all be glad to inquire into further. I presume they will be laid on the Table, and I trust when they are so laid we shall have full details to enable us to compare them with the statistics of former years.

There is, after all, a complete reply to the statistics, as they were quoted yesterday, in the speeches of Ministers. The statistics which the noble Lord gave were, in his own words, designed to show that the condition of the country was pretty much the same as it was in the spring of 1905—I suppose he meant the same as it has been off and on during the past two or three years. Now, my Lords, what is the position? The noble Lord has admitted that there are five counties in Ireland in which the state of affairs causes the gravest anxiety to the Government. He admits the accuracy of the quotations we have made from the charges of the judges in four counties. I notice that a special Commissioner sent over to Ireland by one of the great London dailies has published a very interesting book, in which he states that as a result of his observations he believes that law and order are respected in two-thirds of Ireland and that in the remaining third law is maintained, but it is the law of the United Irish League and not the King's law. The position can fairly be summed up in the statement made by the noble Lord yesterday, that the disturbance in these districts is such as to cause the gravest anxiety to the Government of Ireland. Now, was that the condition last year? How did Ministers themselves describe the condition of Ireland last year? In February, 1906, Mr. Bryce said in another place—

> "There is far less boycotting; there is very little intimidation;"

and later in his speech he said—

> "This is a moment of tranquillity, of peace, and comparatively well-settled order."

Comparing that statement with the statement of the noble Lord opposite, how can it be maintained that the condition of Ireland is much the same as during the last two or three years? I myself attach far greater importance to the comparison between these frank statements by Ministers than to any statistics which could be placed on the Table of your Lordships' House. I am not going to weary your Lordships with further quotations as to the state of Ireland. I think a great deal that we claim is admitted by noble Lords opposite, but I wish to refer to one of the most extraordinary statements that I have ever seen when it is read in connection with the debate last night. My noble friend Lord Mayo gave a quotation by which he showed conclusively that though, of course, the Government are not encouraging this campaign, it is said by many of the agitators in Ireland that they have the Government at their back. Yet in the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Birrell, when questioned on the subject, said he had no information that it had been publicly asserted that the Government approved of methods of intimidation. I think this ignorance on Mr. Birrell's part is one of the most remarkable things in modern politics.

The Government admit the disturbances. We were told yesterday that they deplore them and are dealing with the situation by sending a few extra police into the disturbed districts. But, my Lords, the Government are showing themselves lukewarm in other ways. My noble friend Lord Clonbrock mentioned an occasion on which the local anti-graziers organised an agitation by which they stopped a sale of land under the Wyndham Act. As far as we know, the Government have acquiesced in this, for the sale has not been further proceeded with. It is not very discouraging to the opponents of the grazing system that they should find that the Government allow this result to attend their efforts. If the Government are really in earnest, as I believe they are since they say so, in their anxiety to put down the present disturbances, they must take far stronger measures than they have taken. The noble Marquess Lord Londonderry suggested changing the venue. That is a well-known expedient, and it is perfectly fair that in times of political passion cases should be transferred to districts where a particular local prejudice does not hold full sway.

What really is necessary is that the root of the matter should be attacked. The root of the matter consists in the attacks on the grazing system, which is a perfectly legal system. By that system the grazing of certain lands is let instead of the land itself. It is, as I say, a perfectly lawful undertaking, and the system is resorted to by large tenants as well as by landlords. Lord Denman suggested that the desire of holders of uneconomic holdings to add these grass lands to their holdings was what lay at the root of this matter. That is not the case at all. I do not believe that there is a single landlord in Ireland who would be unwilling to sell his grass lands in order that they might be added to uneconomic holdings, if he could get a price that would secure to him his present income. The object of this agitation is not to force the sale of the grass lands, but to force the sale of the grass lands at a prairie value. The remedy is clear. It is for the Government to instruct the Estates Commissioners that they are not to recognise sales if they are the result of this intimidation with the object of forcing down the price.

I should like, if I may, to refer very briefly to another matter which has only been touched on in the course of the debate. My noble friend Lord Mayo referred to the position of magistrates and gave us a quotation showing that pressure is being brought to bear on magistrates who do their duty and do not give decisions in accordance with the desires of the United Irish League. It would be interesting to know what the Government intend to do to protect these gentlemen. Personally, I do not believe they will do anything. I wish more particularly to call attention to the case where a magistrate who, being a member of the United Irish League, and probably the engineer of the agitation and one of the leaders of these disturbances, has then to try cases arising out of the disturbances. Any number of such cases are to be found. I will quote four. Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P., on 24th February last, as reported in the *Connaught Leader*, was in the chair at a United Irish League meeting at which a gentleman and a lady were called up before the court of the League and forced to give up certain grass holdings. Mr. M. J. Melvin was reported in the *Irish Times* of April 3 to have said at a board of guardians' meeting that a gentleman, who was applying to fill a temporary post as doctor to the board of guardians, must persuade a relative of his to give up a grass farm before he could be appointed to the post he desired. The rather remarkable expression attributed to him was—

> "He must give up the grasslands, and there will be no child's play about it."

Another magistrate, at a meeting of the United Irish League, seconded a resolution to the effect that certain tradesmen were to be reminded that they would get into serious trouble if they supplied food to a man named Brady, who had taken charge of an evicted farm.

I have to-day heard of a remarkable case at Hillstreet, county Roscommon, where a magistrate declared publicly from the bench that he would be prepared to take his place in the cells beside the prisoners rather than acquiesce in their punishment. In England magistrates who encouraged the stirring up of disturbances hostile to people carrying on a perfectly legal trade and then went on the bench to try the people who had been arrested on account of the disturbance would not remain on the bench longer than the time necessary for the Lord Chancellor to send a communication to their residences; and in Ireland the Lord Chancellor has more effective powers for the removal of justices than the Lord Chancellor has in England. In one case which I have been told has been brought to the notice of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland no step has been taken. If the Government are really in earnest about putting down these disturbances it is essential that some notice should be taken of the conduct of these gentlemen.

I make no apology for again referring to the most unfortunate remark of the noble Lord opposite about the driving of cattle not being a serious crime. I heard it with very great regret. That remark, coming from a responsible Minister, will give encouragement to every one of these agitators. We can be quite certain that it has appeared in all the Nationalist newspapers this morning in headings half an inch large. It will spread through the length and breadth of the land. It will be quoted by officials of the United Irish League. It will be quoted in defence of prisoners in the dock. It will be in the minds of the police when they are called upon to carry out the law; and it will be present to the minds of every magistrate and every jury whenever cases come before them as the result of these disturbances. It must be years since a more mischievous statement was made by any responsible Minister in this country.

The noble Lord said that in other parts of Ireland the condition of things was satisfactory. The greater part of the country is contented under the operation of the Wyndham Act, the most discontent being among the landlords, who have to wait five or six years for their purchase money, receiving small interest, less than their rents. Of course, they are disregarded, for they are called the "Protestant garrison" by mob orators, they are sneered at as the "Protestant garrison" by Mr. Birrell, who, in the first speech that he made in the House of Commons as Chief Secretary, could not restrain himself from sneering at his political opponents in Ireland on account of their religious faith.

But though the greater part of Ireland is contented, the remaining part is thoroughly discontented, and the discontent is growing. That well-informed individual—I do not know who he is—*The Times* Correspondent in Dublin only yesterday sent over a short telegram that shows this growth—

> "The anti-grazing movement in the West of Ireland has now extended to Sir Henry Burke's estate in East Galway, where some days ago a crowd of 200 persons drove off the cattle of a man named Donnelly in the presence of a number of policemen."

Here is a statement, published only this morning which shows that even in the last few hours the movement has spread. And it will go on spreading unless, before the end of the debate, His Majesty's Government announce that they intend to take some further and stronger steps to deal with the difficulty.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, before I attempt to deal with the various points raised by noble Lords opposite in the course of the discussion, I may perhaps be allowed to allude to the direct occasion of this debate—namely, the expression used by the Prime Minister in reply to a Question in another place. There, my right hon. friend was asked if he would give a day for a discussion upon the state of Ireland, and in his reply, stating his inability to give the time desired, he used the words quoted in the Question of the noble Marquess—

> "the condition of Ireland as a whole is very satisfactory"—

He went on to add—

> "Although in certain areas disturbances have recently taken place in consequence of an agitation against the grazing system; proper measures are being taken for the preservation of the peace of these districts."

Now, Lord Donoughmore has, I think, admitted that in the main the condition of Ireland is satisfactory—the greater part of Ireland, I think he said. I believe he is the first speaker on that side who has made the admission.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: Lord Mayo did.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: So far—judging by the rather remarkable canon laid down last week in the course of a debate we had—this discussion has been of a very one-sided character. Noble Lords will remember what happened on Thursday. My noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture produced a return which had been called for on the ground that the Prime Minister had said, not that in no part of England could small holdings be obtained, but that in many parts men could not obtain small holdings. My noble friend produced the return, and we were severely lectured by noble Lords opposite for the one-sided character of the document. We had not stated—though we thought we had proved our case—we had not stated all the cases where people who did not want small holdings could get them. We were accused by the noble Earl opposite, who, if he will allow me to say so, sometimes uses language of a strength in inverse ratio to the strength of his case, of "suppression"; and I, adopting that expression, may say that this debate has been a long course of suppression, for there has been no other admission that any part of Ireland is in a satisfactory condition.

THE EARL OF MAYO: I admitted it.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I beg the noble Earl's pardon for not having noticed it. I will absolve him also. Now surely, in considering this question, you have to consider what are the local conditions. You have in Ulster quiet and contentment; you have Leinster undisturbed, except in those parts to which allusion has been made in the neighbourhood of Roscrea; in Munster, there is considerable disturbance in Clare, and also there is a certain degree of unrest in the county of Cork as described by Lord Barrymore, with whose statement I will deal, if I may, a little later on; then, of course, as we know, in various parts of Connaught there are serious symptoms of disorder. There is another consideration. In speaking of the state of Ireland generally you must compare it, not with England—you must compare Ireland with Ireland, Ireland of the present with Ireland of the past.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: With last year?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Yes, with last year if you like. Now, as regards Connaught, and in some degrees it may be said of other parts, the unrest or disturbance in some cases has taken a very serious form, I admit, due to agitation over what is known as the grazing question. The noble Earl, Lord Mayo, mentioned the county from which he takes his name and also the county of Sligo as being disturbed.

THE EARL OF MAYO: And Roscommon.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: And Roscommon, of course. Mayo has been mentioned, and Sligo, as disturbed, but, so far as I know, we have not been furnished with particulars of disturbances there. Now we do not deny the unfortunate condition of unrest in Roscommon and the East Riding of Galway, but it is something, if you find a condition of that kind, to be able to trace its causes, more particularly if you think there is any prospect of those causes being in any way removed. The condition of these great grazing farms is, of course, peculiar. I am not going to say anything disrespectful of these wide pastures of Ireland upon which I have spent many happy days, some of them in company with Lord Mayo; but it is necessary to consider what the condition of these great grazing districts is. They are, in one sense, unique; they are, in many cases, the very best of land; but in respect of their little evidence of human habitation and activity you have to go for purposes of comparison to moors and mountains in other parts of the United Kingdom. I think it is evident, in spite of what was said by the noble Lord who spoke last, that whatever may be the economic advantages, from the point of view of those who own them, of these great grazing districts, it must be admitted that they bear a different aspect from the point of view of those who dwell on the uneconomic holdings in the surrounding fringe.

Of course it is perfectly true, in a sense, that the owner has the right to use the land as he sees fit; that is a proposition which in a sense cannot be disputed; but we are bound at the same time to place ourselves in the position of those who, cramped and cribbed on small, poor, uneconomic holdings, see these great stretches of land in their immediate neighbourhood. It is not fair or reasonable to think of those who take this view only as covetous of their neighbours' possessions; the whole position of affairs in these districts is unnatural.

It is not for me on an occasion like this to go back to the historical causes which have produced lamentable congestion in the West of Ireland, but we all know of the existence of such congestion—for instance, as formerly on the Dillon estate, with 4,000 tenants at an average of £4 a year. This is not a natural or normal condition of things; it is due to historical causes, into which we need not enter; but it is impossible to suppose that people who live on holdings of this kind can regard the neighbourhood of these great empty farms with approval, or desire otherwise than that there should be some change in the agricultural conditions of their neighbourhood.

We all know that a Commission is now sitting under the most careful and unwearied presidency of my noble friend Lord Dudley; therefore, when we speak of dealing, as far as we possibly can, with this question of grazing lands, it is only reasonable to point out that we are not doing so as the result of pressure or intimidation exercised by anybody, but from a settled policy of attempting, if possible, to remedy this state of affairs in the congested districts. It cannot be denied that a considerable portion of this unrest is due to the delay—I quite admit inevitable—in the presentation of the Report of the Commission; but I have every reason to expect the issue of the report before the close of the year; and if—as is exceedingly likely to be the case, I imagine, from the character of the evidence given—if the Commissioners' Report does state that it is desirable to take steps by which those who live on these uneconomic holdings should be provided with sufficient land to make their holdings a reasonable size, so far as that can be done by administrative action, the Government will lose no time in carrying such recommendations into effect. Neither will the Government tarry in applying legislative action, should that be necessary. In these circumstances, my Lords, I certainly feel that we have the right to appeal to those who are able to influence popular opinion in those parts of Ireland to do everything they can to prevent any exhibition of disorderly conduct, which we deplore quite as much as noble Lords opposite. It must be borne in mind that at present any attempt to improve the conditions of these uneconomic holdings is absolutely limited by the powers of the Congested Districts Board to spend money, and therefore it is impossible for that admirable body to proceed as rapidly in the matter as, no doubt, they themselves would desire.

These exhibitions of disorder have in many cases taken the form of cattle drives. My noble friend, Lord Denman, has been subjected to a degree of criticism which I cannot consider fair for the terms in which he spoke of that practice. Noble Lords opposite must know in their inmost heart that my noble friend had no intention of minimising such criminal and disorderly acts. What he said was that he could not speak of such a crime as one of the most serious crimes, in comparison, for instance, with what took place in what are called the "bad times," the maiming of cattle, a practice which filled every decent and reputable person not only in this country, but in Ireland, with horror, and which more than anything else tended to alienate popular sympathy from the Nationalist cause. Therefore I think my noble friend, while repudiating the practice, was perfectly within his right in using the language he did use.

I now come to the question of the administration of the law, and the action of the police. I heartily agree with Lord Londonderry that the vindication of the law ought not to be regarded as a Party question. Certainly we have not the slightest intention of so regarding it. I, for one, am entitled, looking back to the years 1892 to 1895, when I had a share in the government of Ireland, to appeal to noble Lords opposite whether Mr. Morley and myself in that time ever faltered in the slightest degree in the proper administration of the law. It is a serious charge that is urged against the present Government. Noble Lords opposite have not gone so far as to say that we are in sympathy with disorder. So far I am obliged to them. But they have definitely asserted that we have allowed it to be supposed without contradiction that we did not desire to put down these criminal manifestations. I ask any fair-minded person what possible colour is there for an assertion of that kind? I do not wish to dwell upon the observation of Lord Mayo as to the police having been given instructions not to report crime, partly because he did not single out the present Government in making the charge, but, with a credulity for which I should hardly credit him, contended that it was the invariable practice of all Governments, if it suited their case. All I can say is that, so far as the present Government and the Government which I was more intimately connected with in Ireland are concerned, there is not the slightest foundation for any suspicion of the kind. Noble Lords have thrown some discredit upon the figures which were given by my noble friend yesterday. Those figures are the ordinary figures of agrarian crime with which we have all been familiar ever since we have taken an interest in Irish politics. It has lately not been the practice to issue those frequent returns which at one time noble Lords used to receive, and, I suppose, in some cases to study; but these are the police returns, which are drawn up in precisely the same way. Therefore, so far as figures are of any use in a comparison of this kind—and I quite admit that it is only in a limited sense that figures are of importance in a matter of this sort—these figures are strictly comparable with those of former years.

The noble Marquess, Lord Londonderry, spoke of the Government "glossing over" cases of crime in order to conciliate the Nationalist Members of Parliament. That charge is hardly worthy of the noble Marquess. I do not say he makes it, but I think it is a charge he ought not even to repeat. I defy any noble Lord opposite to prove that a prosecution has not taken place in every case where there was a possibility of obtaining evidence. Of course, in Ireland, as everywhere else, there are cases of undetected crime. There are also cases where the police authorities may not only have a strong suspicion but a moral certainty as to who committed the crimes, and yet have not been able to obtain evidence which would convince a jury. But I say that in every case where evidence was forthcoming a prosecution has taken place. I cannot understand how it has come to be believed that the police would not receive the absolutely loyal support of the Irish Government in every case in which they might take action.

There are two kinds of persons in Ireland, and to some extent in this country, who make the government of Ireland difficult. No words are too strong in condemnation of those who, representing the popular side in Ireland, do anything to encourage or to condone disorder and crime. Certainly I shall never say a word in excuse of such conduct as that, and whether those who have been guilty of it are men in a high position or low, members of Parliament or magistrates, or whatever their position may be, they deserve, and I trust will receive, not merely the censure that is the due of such conduct, but they will not enjoy, in any case, immunity from the proper consequences of their action. Lord Londonderry quoted a statement that was made that the Chief Secretary had advised people in Ireland to agitate. Of course, my right hon. friend never did anything of the kind. Surely it is an absurd proposition to say that every foolish observation of a disorderly person in Ireland, whether Nationalist or Orangeman, should be contradicted by him, either by way of a letter to *The Times* or from his place in Parliament. Such a statement carries its own refutation, and I am sure my right hon. friend would consider it unworthy of the dignity of a formal and definite contradiction. The noble Earl who spoke last referred to the action of magistrates in Ireland. There is no doubt that in certain cases the conduct of magistrates has been open to severe censure. In some of those cattle-driving cases *ex officio* magistrates, that is to say chairmen of rural district councils, attended at courts outside their own districts; and in one case an ordinary magistrate attended a trial outside his petty sessions district. The Lord Chancellor has sent these magistrates notice requiring them to give undertakings not to sit outside their districts, and declaring that he proposes to supersede any magistrate who will not obey his injunction. I am quite certain that if any case is brought before him in which it is shown that a magistrate has proved himself unworthy of the great civil trust imposed upon him by his commission, the Lord Chancellor will take steps to suspend him from the commission of the peace, and in doing so he will certainly have the approval and support of His Majesty's Government as a whole.

But there is also, I am sorry to say, another class of people who make the Government of Ireland more difficult, and those are the more bitter and prejudiced supporters of noble Lords opposite. Those people who, by public speech or in pamphlets or in private conversation, inspired by party feeling, endeavour to spread the opinion throughout Ireland that the Government of Ireland is not in earnest in the administration of law and order are doing, in my opinion, quite as much to make the government of Ireland difficult as those whom the noble Lord called agitators. To my mind, such conduct is as directly an encouragement to disorder as anything that is done by those more obvious and noisy people to whom allusion has already been made. If noble Lords opposite allow or encourage people in Ireland to go about saying that this Government sympathises with disorder and crime, it is obvious what the effect must necessarily be. They must encourage those who are disposed to engage in disorder and commit crime.

I am sorry to have to say it, but in an attenuated form something of that kind has even invaded our debates here. In the debate of yesterday one or two noble Lords made observations which I deeply regretted, because they seemed to encourage that belief. One noble Lord—Lord Barrymore—told a story—whether he believed it I do not know—that the police in a certain case failed to maintain order because they were afraid that if they took strong action they would be thrown over by the Government, or words to that effect. I protest against anything of that kind being told in this House, even as an anecdote. All I can say is that, if there are any constables in Ireland who believe they will not be supported by the Government in maintaining order, it is not from anything said to them officially or unofficially by anybody associated with the Government, but because they have been told so by some Unionist gentlemen.

Then, again, Lord Dunboyne said that the people knew it was no use complaining, because they could not get protection. Nothing of the kind can be proved. What instance is there in which anybody has applied for protection and has been refused? As a matter of fact, as everybody knows, the police are most sedulous and careful, sometimes indeed, as I know from my own experience when I was in Ireland, to an almost pedantic extent, in surrounding with an adequate system of protection people who had any reason to believe that they were in physical danger. If noble Lords really desire to do what they can to help us to maintain order in Ireland, when they hear anybody saying that the Government desire to encourage disorder it is their obvious duty, if they do not believe it, to contradict such a statement. I hope, after this, that noble Lords will do their utmost to stop these scandalous and most mendacious statements in any part of Ireland with which they are concerned.

Now, my Lords, I pass to consider, very briefly, what has been done to secure the punishment of persons who have been guilty of crime. The spring and summer assizes last year were, on the whole, very satisfactory. At the winter assizes a very large number of cases were brought to trial. Lord Dunboyne mentioned a case, a painful and shocking case it was, of an attempt to murder. The assailant was tried at Limerick and got fifteen years' penal servitude.

*LORD DUNBOYNE: The crime was committed in Clare, and my point rather was that it was impossible to get a conviction in Clare. I think you will find that in all the shooting cases that were tried at the last spring assizes in Clare there was not a single conviction. This case, fortunately, was tried at Limerick as there was no winter assize in Clare. with the result that the man was convicted. My point was that you could not obtain a conviction in the county of Clare.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The county of Clare has always been a difficult county, but I do not think the noble Lord is accurate in saying that there were no convictions at the summer assizes in Clare last year.

*LORD DUNBOYNE: I mentioned a case in which the prisoner was well known to the man who was shot in broad daylight, from a distance of a few yards, but when he was asked: "Is the prisoner the man who fired at you or no?" The answer was, "I cannot say." The result was that the man was acquitted.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I do not recognise the case from the noble Lord's statement; but the M'Auliffe case, if that is the one to which the noble Lord alludes, is down for trial again, the jury having disagreed.

*LORD DUNBOYNE: The case I referred to was not the M'Auliffe case.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Then I do not know the case to which the noble Lord refers. The noble Viscount, Lord Hill, said that no allusion had been made to Leitrim, but I think that is scarcely accurate. Reference was made pretty fully to the Brady case, one of the most notorious in Leitrim. In that case the jury have twice disagreed, and I understand it is likely that the case will have to be tried again. Lord Dunboyne mentioned the case of King's County, and I rather think it was he who referred to the charge of Judge Curran at quarter sessions in King's County. I understood the noble Lord to say that the Judge had observed that King's County could not be in a worse condition of disorder than at present. The Judge wrote to the Press on seeing that report, and stated that it was a gross fabrication. What he said was that the white gloves which had been given him did not represent the state of the division of King's County in which he was sitting, owing, of course, to the Roscrea case, upon which so much has already been said. Lord Clonbrock mentioned several cases which I am certain aroused sympathy among noble Lords, but I did not understand him to say that there had been a failure to prosecute or a failure to protect in either of those cases.

*LORD CLONBROCK: I never said that there had been any failure to prosecute or to protect lately.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am glad to have that from the noble Lord. As regards the painful case of cattle being taken to a fair and prevented from being sold, I find that steps are being taken to institute prosecutions in that case. Lord Barrymore went into several cases in Cork. The serving of writs, I am afraid, is very often not a very peaceful process in any part of Ireland, but I did not gather what complaint he had to make of the Government in the matter. He went a long way back, to the time when Mr. Long was Chief Secretary, and, of course, we cannot take responsibility for anything which happened then. He mentioned, however, a case which occurred last autumn, and there several people were prosecuted and received various terms of imprisonment.

The Athenry case, of which a great deal—I do not say too much—has been made, leads me to say a word on the whole question of intimidation. I think Lord Mayo referred to the rule that in a case in which an application is made to the Estates Commissioners for the definition of an estate, etc., should it be found that any intimidation has been exercised they shall by order postpone such application until all pending applications of a similar nature in respect of which no intimidation has been exercised shall have been disposed of. Quite apart from the question of the legality or the illegality of that regulation, it seems to me to be faulty. In some cases it prevented the sale of lands which the owner was desirous to dispose of. In such cases, not only the intimidators, but the intimidated suffered. If we are to have a remedy of that kind, I think the proper remedy is not to stop the sale of the estate, but to see that persons guilty of intimidation do not obtain any allotment on that estate; and that is the course which I am led to believe is likely to be pursued.

Several noble Lords have urged upon us the use of the Crimes Act. There is no doubt a very distinct difference of opinion between the two parties in this country as to the desirability of using extraordinary powers. I do not at all accuse noble Lords of this, but there are some persons, if one may judge by what one reads in the newspapers, who take a positive satisfaction in the use of extraordinary powers of that kind. They seem to regard the use of an Act of that sort as having something manly and spacious about it, rather in the spirit which induces a certain number of people in this peaceful metropolis of London to go about with revolvers in their pockets. I do not, however, accuse noble Lords of sentiments of that kind. I think it cannot be denied that conditions may arise in any country which make it impossible to rely upon the ordinary law. But we say that every effort ought to be made to rely upon the ordinary law as long as you can. It has been the general experience of Governments that when you employ special provisions it is very difficult to convince a large number of people—not merely criminals, though I think criminals ought to be convinced that the administration of justice is fair, but people who have no sympathy with crime—that your administration of justice is perfectly fair and equitable. To put the same thing in another way; if you succeed here and there in obtaining under the Crimes Act a conviction which you would not otherwise obtain, our contention is that it is possible to buy convictions too dearly. Of course, if you find that the ordinary law breaks down altogether you have to re-consider the position; but that condition of things I think it is proved by facts and figures has not arrived, and therefore we are determined, so long as we can, to rely upon the ordinary law.

The noble Viscount opposite, Lord Hill, asked why we do not proclaim some of these organisations. I suppose he means the United Irish League. I do not know whether it is contended that when we came into office the United Irish League was a perfectly harmless and praiseworthy body. If not, noble Lords on the other side who did not proclaim the United Irish League must bear, I am afraid, a share of this censure. Speaking generally, I do not think it is reasonable to state that there is anything like a general condition of disorder in Ireland. Neither do I think it is reasonable to say that His Majesty's Government have been backward in dealing with such disorder as exists. I confess I was somewhat astonished at what fell from Lord Clonbrock when he said that in his long experience in Ireland he had never known a time when the condition of certain districts was as bad as it is at this moment.

*LORD CLONBROCK: I did not quite say that. Excepting 1847–8 and 1879–82, I said I did not remember a time when the rights of property were less secure and when less effort was made to protect it.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am glad the noble lord has somewhat qualified his statement, because those terrible times, at any rate from 1878 to 1890, make a very substantial reduction from the total with which the noble Lord was concerned. I am afraid I must take exception to the statement he has just made as to the absence of effort to protect property, because I do not think that is a reasonable charge to bring against us. After all, when you remember that in 1886 there were 1,000 agrarian outrages, and a great many of these outrages were of an infinitely more serious character than any which we have to deal with now, and that last year the number was 234, it does seem to me a bold statement to make as regards Ireland as a whole.

Lord Londonderry alluded to some remarks of Mr. Justice Ross. Mr. Justice Ross specifically said that he was speaking of the West of Ireland, and therefore his remarks do not seem to me to bear the very wide interpretation which was put upon them by the noble Marquess. I am very anxious that no noble Lord in this House should misunderstand me in the way in which my noble friend was, as I think, not very fairly misunderstood, or imagine that I have any wish to minimise the importance of such disorder as exists, or that His Majesty's Government have any intention of doing anything but dealing in the fullest manner with such disorder.

I agree that very considerable watchfulness is necessary. I am at one with noble Lords, from such knowledge of Ireland as I have, in believing that illegal movements of this kind are difficult to confine to a single district; therefore, it is necessary to exercise great watchfulness. If you offer some kind of excuse or palliation for disorderly action in a particular case, it is likely to be followed as an example by disorderly action in cases in which nobody, however much of a partisan, can invent any excuse whatever. That I freely admit. Therefore, I quite agree that severe watchfulness is necessary. But I do not admit that there is a general condition of disorder and illegality in Ireland, and we do assert that such disorder and illegality as exists can be dealt with, and is being dealt with, under the ordinary law of the country.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I think there would be few to question the statement that this debate has been both valuable and useful, and no part of it I am sure is likely to be regarded of more value than the careful and elaborate statement made by the noble Earl who has just sat down. I do not agree with all the inferences and conclusions of the noble Earl, but I would have been very glad if some passages of his speech had been delivered in the House of Commons by the Minister responsible for Ireland and in face of the Members for Ireland.

My noble friend Lord Londonderry, who was followed by other noble friends of mine from Ireland, presented to your Lordships a grave picture of the present state of things in that country. It has never been suggested that the whole of Ireland was in this bad state. That was not necessary in order to make out this case. Everybody knows that a great many counties in Ireland are quite peaceable and quite free from crime. The point is that there is a substantial part of Ireland which is not peaceful, and which is large enough to make people anxious. One is not freed from anxiety with reference to Connaught, and some counties outside, by being told that there are quiet counties in other parts of Ireland.

As to what has been said by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council in reference to Mr. Justice Ross, I would point out that from his position that able and experienced Judge is certainly able to gauge, to measure, and to express authoritatively an opinion upon the peace and tranquillity of those parts of Ireland which come under his notice, and he has said—and his words remain unchallenged—that a wide-spread and audacious conspiracy is rampant in the west. Could any words uttered by a Judge from the Bench be more grave? I read, too, in the papers this morning that the learned County Court Judge in Roscommon said yesterday in his charge to a grand jury that the present state of that county was deplorable. You can hardly turn to a newspaper without finding similar evidence.

The matter has to be looked plainly and squarely in the face. It is not a general outburst of crime committed for the sake of committing it. There is a special object in view, and that is to cause the breaking up of a system which has been called by the new name "grazierism," to put down grass farms, to terrorise the men who now occupy them into quitting them, and thus bring about a state of things under which the land will be sold greatly under its value. Surely that is a serious thing. It is not the way to work out in the interests of the country an economic revolution. Many of the people affected are poor landlords and poor tenants, but they live by the grass industry, and it is a very grave and serious thing to see this system of terrorism so largely prevailing. It was extremely difficult to understand the noble Earl's reference to the Dudley Commission. I have too much respect for the noble Earl not to think that he had something in his mind in regard to that Report, but he certainly did not clothe it in that logical form which would enable it to be taken in at once at a glance.

What are the weapons with which it is sought to work out this revolution? There is in the front rank the driving off of cattle, which is one of the readiest and most unlawful methods. Then there are boycotting, intimidation, and malicious injury. It is impossible to defend these, and the nature of these weapons shows the extreme peril of the Government's not applying themselves resolutely to coping with the movement. It is impossible to burke discussion. Mr. Birrell has very unwisely, if I may presume to say so, tried to check discussion in another place by abusing Irish Members who had a perfect right to drag before the public eye what was going on in Ireland, by calling them "carrion crows." Such words are indefensible and unbecoming in the highest degree. That is all I will say in reference to them. I have very little doubt that Mr. Birrell now regrets having used them. They have not been forgotten, and it is not easy to see how it is possible to forget them.

There is no one so blind as the person who will not see, and there is no one so dangerous to deal with as the man who will not know. The present condition of things has reached a point when it is impossible to keep one's eyes shut and when everyone must know what is going on. The policy of letting things slide has been applied for many months to the west of Ireland. That policy is easy, it is lazy, and it gives so little offence to those who profit by it; but the result in the west of Ireland is that things have been going from bad to worse, and now a good deal of that part of the country is really out of hand. It is exceedingly hard for any one acquainted with the facts to say that the country is in hand at the present moment and under the grasp of anything like a firm and reasonable Government.

What has been done? Extra police have been drafted in and protection has been given in cases in which it has been asked for and believed to be needed; but with regard to the taking of grass lands by force, the administration of the country has been nerveless and flabby. The Irish are a clever and intelligent race, and can readily take the measure of a man. I do not know what measure they have applied to Mr. Birrell, but I should think they regard him as a good-natured man of whom they need not be very much afraid. The noble Lord who spoke last night on behalf of the Irish Office used full notes, and those notes must have been prepared by Mr. Birrell. I have great respect for the noble Lord who represents the Irish Office, but I assume that every syllable that was stated to the House yesterday by him was prepared by Mr. Birrell.

LORD DENMAN: It is not right to say that every syllable was prepared. The statistics I made use of were prepared in the Irish Office, but the rest of my notes I naturally prepared myself.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I have no doubt that the noble Lord satisfied himself before delivering his speech that he was making a statement which was agreeable to and in accordance with the wishes and the policy of the Chief Secretary. It must be so, because it was an important occasion, and it would be impossible for anyone in the position of the noble Lord to take upon himself any language or words which had not the sanction and approval of the Chief Secretary. Misleading inferences may be drawn from the quotation of Judges' charges without consideration of context and circumstances. If a Judge adds to his remarks on the absence of cases the words—

"I think it right at the same time to say that this division is not at all quiet," or some equivalent words, the quotation of them would obviate erroneous inferences from the fact that a pair of white gloves had been presented to him. Often there is no trial because the victims of intimidation have yielded to the terrorism.

I understand that police recruiting has been modified. I would like to know if, considering the state of the west of Ireland, the Government are satisfied as to the number and distribution of their police, and are bearing in mind that policemen are not trained in a day. The selection of police takes time, and I sincerely hope that the matter is being examined into with all the care that it needs. I have no doubt that there is every desire on the part of the Government, as was stated by the noble Earl in his speech, to give protection where it is required and to institute prosecutions. I do not say anything in reference to that matter in addition to what has been said. I will watch the result. I think it right, notwithstanding what has been said, to refer to the statement made yesterday by Lord Denman, that—

> "In the opinion of the Government the driving of cattle could not, of itself, be regarded as a crime of a very serious nature."

I was in hopes that the noble Earl would have given us an unqualified withdrawal, in the name of the Government, of that statement. But what the noble Earl has said has added to its seriousness, for, speaking with all the weight of his great position, and as a Cabinet Minister, he has, as I understood him, repeated the same thing in slightly different words. Cattle driving is not, as he suggests, so bad as cattle maiming. I admit it. It is not as bad as murder and many other offences; but for a responsible Minister, speaking for the Irish Office, to say that cattle driving is not to be regarded as a crime of a very serious character, is perilous, most mischievous, and likely to lead to crime and disaster in Ireland.

I earnestly hope that the noble Marquess the Leader of the House, who, I presume, will speak before the debate closes, will not use any doubtful or halting language which will be open to misconstruction on this matter. Cattle driving is one of the most potent weapons in use in the West of Ireland for the spread of disorder, intimidation, and terrorism. To let it go forth that it is not to be regarded as a very serious crime is indefensible, and the consequences may be very serious. This is disastrous teaching to the people, to the magistrates, and to the police. It is difficult now to get magistrates to try these cases because of the unpopularity which follows, and it will have a serious effect upon them when they reflect that they have tried men and sentenced them to punishment for an offence which the Government have declared is not a very serious one. I could pursue the deadly consequences further.

I make no charge against individual members of the Government, whom I credit with a desire to give every possible protection against crime; but it is widely felt in Ireland that they have not worked with the zeal, resolution, and energy necessary to cope with the state of affairs confronting them. If a Home Secretary allowed a single parish, or half a parish, in England to be in the condition of the west of Ireland for twenty-four hours he would be drummed out of his place as incapable. I venture to think that it is much worse than being incapable to know of disorder and not to apply ability and knowledge to deal with it, and so be exposed to a charge of wanting resolution or being equivocal in courage. This is a very grave question for the country as well as for the Government themselves. I am informed in letters which I receive from Ireland from those capable of judging that if the Government do not rouse themselves to do more than express becoming sentiments, we may drift into agrarian war. It is a grave state of things if there is something like a common understanding as to the manner of dealing with these grass lands in Ireland and men are banded together to defy the law. The position, I am informed, is likely to become worse if there is not more resolution and nerve on the part of the Government.

Popularity and unpopularity are words that should never be used in administration. Popularity may be bought too dear. Lord Denman said that the Government were determined to administer the law with firmness and decision, but a statement not yet dealt with has been made in the debate to the effect that a magistrate's sentence of three months imprisonment in the West of Ireland, where it is hard to get convictions, has been, on the Chief Secretary's recommendation, commuted to fifteen days. I make no comment on this, but it adds to the responsibility of the Government, and I press upon them the stern necessity of maintaining the King's peace in Ireland. I am glad to hear what is being done by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to secure impartial administration of justice without prejudice, passion, or intimidation. The object of this debate is to press upon the Government their responsibility in reference to the present condition of certain districts in Ireland. Up to the present it has not been obvious that there has been any alertness in rising to a sense of that responsibility. As to the future, I can only hope that the statements made by the noble Earl will find fruition and effect, but the Government must expect, knowing the importance of the position and the interest it has to all, to find their actions closely and jealously scanned to see if they rise to the level of their responsibility and primal duty—the maintenance of law and order, the highest need of civilization.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE: My Lords, the noble Marquess the Leader of the House and the noble Earl who sits beside him have both had great experience of the difficulties of administration in Ireland under former Liberal Governments. They know that from very small beginnings great consequences often ensue, and though from their official position they may be obliged to adopt an optimistic tone, yet I think that if they spoke from their hearts they would say: "We know that all you have told us is true. We have impressed the fact on our colleague the Chief Secretary, but, after all, you cannot put an old head on young shoulders." I think every noble Lord in this House will agree with me that Mr. Birrell, so far as Ireland is concerned, has certainly shown that he has a very young head. He has not taken to heart the statement attributed to a late distinguished Irishman and a member of your Lordships' House that in every village there you find three or four blackguards who call themselves the people of Ireland, and unless these blackguards are controlled they become, not only the people of Ireland, but the rulers of the people of Ireland. The people of Ireland have not that independence of character, that self-reliance, which characterises Englishmen and Scotsmen, and when there is a conflict between the United Irish League and the Government of the day they are inclined to choose whichever they think is the stronger party.

I, for one, believe that the whole of this disorder might have been avoided if the regulation as to the purchase of property when intimidation was practised had remained in force. I am sure we all welcome the statement of the noble Earl that the Regulation is to be re-enacted in a modified form. There seems to me to be no difference of opinion as to the desirability of small farmers being given more land. Landlords, whatever they may think of the experiment, are perfectly ready that it should be tried, and there would be no difficulty in obtaining grass land from them if they were sure that their income would not be lessened by the sale of such land. But this would not suit the agitators, who desire to bring down the price of land to such a figure as would ruin not only the landlords but the graziers; and when they succeed in doing this it creates a precedent with regard to the price to be given for grass lands. A landowner treated in this way, suddenly finding land which is largely mortgaged thrown on his hands with no money to stock it and with the knowledge that if he did stock it he would be boycotted, is obliged to sell at whatever price he can get. The graziers are in perhaps a worse position. Their cattle is deteriorated in value through these drives, and they are forced to dump them on a flooded market and with the proceeds search for a new form of livelihood.

I do not wish to say very much with regard to the unfortunate reference of Lord Denman to cattle driving as a not very serious crime; but I ask the noble Lord to imagine such a scene as has been described taking place in Sussex, and what would be his own feeling if he had a tenant fired at and wounded because he would not give up his tenancy at the demand of the agitators. I rather think the views of the noble Lord would then be changed in regard to this matter. The noble Lord mentioned, in connection with the statistics that he gave to the House, that crime had not increased. That subject has been dealt with by the noble and learned Lord who spoke last. It should be remembered that it is not necessary for actual crimes to be committed when the edicts of the United Irish League have the same force as the decrees of the High Court in this country. I was glad to hear from the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council that the statistics which were quoted were based on the same principles as those which have been given before, because I think some of us imagined that the statements came within the same category as those which the President of the Board of Agriculture gave us the other day with regard to another matter and only put forward one side of the question.

The noble Earl said that no reference had been made to crime in Mayo. I will quote two instances for his benefit. In county Mayo on 19th May, near Ballina, about 100 cattle and sheep on a grazing farm were driven during the night, and on the following morning were found roaming about the roads. Some ill-feeling had been caused by the tenant renewing his eleven months take of the farm. The second instance I would refer to is a resolution of the North Mayo Convention of the United Irish League strongly condemning graziers and grabbers, and urging that they should not be allowed to walk the country in safety, or otherwise there would soon be no one left in Mayo but graziers and grabbers.

This matter has not been brought forward in any Party spirit by the noble Marquess. Whatever political views they may hold the first duty of Government is to enforce law and order, and I am delighted to hear from the speech of the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council that His Majesty's Ministers do not intend to fail in this primary duty.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, if I had not understood that the noble Lord who has just sat down was anxious to address the House at that particular moment I should certainly have risen when the noble and learned Lord opposite sat down, because, my Lords, I do earnestly protest against the tone and language of the speech delivered by him I think it was my noble friend Lord Donoughmore who told us, speaking of some expression to which he took exception used by my noble friend Lord Denman yesterday, that it would be published in every newspaper in Ireland with a double-leaded heading. I have no doubt that the speech of the noble and learned Lord will be published in every newspaper in Ireland with a still darker heading. That speech was an excellent example of that class of sentiment to which my noble friend behind me took exception.

I adhere absolutely and entirely to the statement of my noble friend the Lord President of the Council. His admirable speech I had hoped would have convinced your Lordships, as it was undoubtedly entitled to convince you, of the intention of His Majesty's Government to deal as they ought to deal with disorders of the kind which have formed the subject of this discussion, without fear or favour putting into operation all the powers of the ordinary law which they possess. I am not in the least inclined to under-rate the character of the disorders which have been referred to to-night, and I deny that there has been anything said in this debate which can justly be taken as indicating indifference on the part of the Government to these disorders.

I am almost ashamed to detain your Lordships even for a few moments after my noble friend's speech. If I had spoken an hour ago I should have expressed my satisfaction at the turn which this debate had taken. I should have acknowledged the advantage which we derived from the course taken by the noble Marquess opposite in having brought this subject before the House, because it seems to me that it has had the very desirable effect of clearing up the doubt which seems to have existed, most unjustly, in my opinion, in the minds of some noble Lords opposite that these disorders would not be dealt with adequately by His Majesty's Government. My Lords, I cannot conceive that there can be any doubt in the mind of anyone who listened to the speech of my noble friend the Lord President of the Council that it is the fixed determination of His Majesty's Government to deal adequately with the matter.

I fail to see how any exception can be taken, after the facts that have been stated, to the words of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister which stand at the bottom of the noble Marquess's Notice on the Paper, that—

> "The condition of Ireland, as a whole, is very satisfactory."

If my right hon. friend had said that the condition of Ireland generally is very satisfactory, the statement might have been questioned. I admit—we all admit—that in certain parts of Ireland there are serious disturbances, serious breaches of the law, and serious offences that must be punished. But it cannot be denied—in fact it is admitted by noble Lords opposite—that in the major part of Ireland there is great tranquillity. My noble and learned friend opposite, if he will allow me so to call him, is usually so urbane that I am really quite puzzled at his extreme denunciation of an innocent Government. Of course we have never had any intention whatever of neglecting this matter, or of not putting the law into force. My noble friend Lord Denman, in the remarks which he made, showed you what the Government had done. My noble friend behind me, the Lord President of the Council, completed that evidence by enlarging upon the intentions of the Government in respect to these particular districts. I cannot do more than repeat that which has been said before, and I rest entirely upon the speech of my noble friend behind me, the Lord President, whose experience of Irish affairs and whose general character ought to be sufficient to reassure noble Lords opposite.

I also desire to associate myself entirely with my noble friend in what he said with respect to the application of the ordinary law. There are always people in this country and in Ireland crying out for exceptional measures. In my opinion, resort to exceptional measures, unless it is called for by very special circumstances, is a very serious evil. I know there are plenty of people who think it is the first thing you ought to do. The only complaint I have to make of my noble friend the noble Marquess opposite is that he said: "You have the Crimes Act at your hand." But, my Lords, we do not want to use the Crimes Act. We want to stand by the ordinary law unless the ordinary law fails.

We do intend to put an end to the proceedings which have formed the subject of this discussion. As the responsibility rests upon us, as we are the persons responsible for the maintenance—for the re-establishment I would rather say—of peace and tranquillity in the disturbed districts, I venture to think your Lordships had better leave to us the responsibility which belongs to us. I do very earnestly and very strongly deprecate the use of language which may be all very well for a Party debate, but which is calculated to give the entirely false impression to the people of these disturbed districts that there is any inclination on the part of His Majesty's Government not to deal firmly with this question.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, this important discussion has had one result upon which we, on this side, may certainly congratulate ourselves. It has elicited from His Majesty's Government a very much more distinct statement than any which has to the best of my belief been previously made of their intention to maintain law and order in Ireland. We have been told by the noble Lords who have spoken on behalf of the Government that they regard the present condition of things in a considerable part of that country with grave anxiety, and that they intend to enforce the law with firmness and decision; and the noble Marquess who has just sat down, in the few energetic words he addressed to the House, repeated that promise in even more emphatic language than had been used by his colleagues.

I call your Lordships' attention to the fact that what the noble Marquess committed His Majesty's Government to was the re-establishment of law and order in the disturbed parts of Ireland.

We have in that an admission of the whole case made by my noble friend who brought this subject before the House, because if law and order must be re-established, it follows that they are at this moment in abeyance. I would venture to express a hope that language corresponding to the language which has been employed in this House will be used by the colleagues of the noble Marquess in another place. A frank statement of that kind made in the presence of those who are so much interested in the matter, as the representatives of Ireland, could not fail, I think, to have a most important effect upon the condition of that country.

I have been much more reassured by those statements—which I accept without any reservation—than by the attempts that have been made to represent to us that the mischief of these proceedings in Ireland was much less far-reaching than we supposed. I am not going to pursue further the question of the somewhat unfortunate remark of the noble Lord who spoke first for the Government in regard to cattle driving. I take a more charitable view of the noble Lord's *lapsus linguæ*. I cannot help thinking that the noble Lord, being, perhaps, inexperienced in matters of Irish agriculture, was under the impression that just as it might be good for an elderly gentleman to take a little brisk exercise along the high road, so it might not be a bad thing for a few corpulent bullocks to be driven to the next parish, to the sound of trumpets and drums, on the chance that they might get back to their legitimate pastures again without having fallen in value £2 or £3 per head.

Statistics, again, do not appeal very forcibly to me. There is one reason why you must always discount these statistics, and that is that wherever the despotism of these illegal conspiracies prevails, these outrages, when they do take place, are not reported, and—I am afraid one must say — outrages sometimes do not take place, because they have ceased to be necessary for the purposes of those who take part in these sinister movements. Therefore, when I have to choose between the statistics which have been laid before the House and the experiences of noble Lords who live in Ireland, and of the Judges, who have exceptional opportunities of learning what is happening not only on the surface but below the surface, I attach more importance to evidence of that class than to any amount of figures which Government Departments are able to produce.

There are certain circumstances that are undisputed. It is not denied that there are considerable areas in Ireland within which this system of persecution reigns rampant. We have heard a great deal about what is called in these days grazierism. These grazing farms not only represent a perfectly legitimate industry, but they fill a very useful place in the system of Irish agriculture, because store cattle to be properly finished for market must have some access to richer land. The Lord President of the Council told us that these rich grazing lands are surrounded by uneconomic holdings, the occupiers of which desire an enlargement of their occupations. That may be a natural view, and it may be a view which the Government are ready to take into account, and if they have proposals for acquiring land for the purpose by ordinary negotiation no one will object. But what we object to is that, as a preliminary to this arrangement, these lands should become derelict owing to these cattle-driving expeditions, and then, being derelict, be sold below their value to the Congested Districts Board for the enlargement of the smaller farms. We know that a very large number of surrenders of these grazing farms has been brought about by this process of intimidation. I am told that in Roscommon alone thirty farms have been so surrendered in the last few weeks. That is a state of things which must be regarded as of the most serious description.

There is another matter of the utmost gravity—I refer to the conduct of the local Benches. Could any scandal be greater than the behaviour of some of these local Benches when dealing with cases of intimidation? Imagine the kind of justice which is likely to be meted out by such magistrates as some of those whose language has been quoted! What makes the matter more serious is that not only do the legitimate Courts of law fail in their duty, but you have side by side with them the operations of the illegitimate courts, created under the auspices of the League—courts which have a *quasi*-legal form of procedure, which summon people before them, which require acts of submission, which impose fines, and which know perfectly well how to impose other penalties of the gravest description.

Another matter that is most alarming, and as to which no contradiction has been given, is the strain which these events put upon the police. You have been driven, because you have shrunk from other measures, to the comparatively clumsy procedure of garrisoning the surrendered farms with large bodies of police. Are you quite sure, if this evil goes on spreading, that you will have police enough to maintain law and order? Have your Lordships read the account of an incident which took place the other day? A body of police urgently required for the purpose of maintaining law and order arrived at Birr station. They found the platform occupied by a howling mob. They were not permitted to leave the train, and were obliged to travel to the next station, from which they marched back across country to Birr. If we were to read of such an occurrence happening in one of the Western States of America, we should thank our stars we did not reside in a country where things had come to such a pass; and yet these are the kind of events which are happening in a country which we are pleased to regard as civilised.

And, my Lords, what makes the matter serious is that the disease is spreading, and, unless it is checked, it cannot fail to contaminate the adjoining regions. We have been told by the Lord President that the attitude of His Majesty's Government is to be one of severe watchfulness. That is a somewhat ambiguous phrase; I trust we are not to understand it as denoting the kind of watchfulness which may be exercised with your hands safe in your pockets. I do not think that up to the present His Majesty's Government can altogether escape responsibility for having neglected some, at any rate, of the measures of precaution which lay ready to their hand. His Majesty's Government have allowed the Peace Preservation Act of 1881 to lapse. Then there is the Crimes Act of 1887. Now, I entirely agree with the noble Earl opposite that it is undesirable to have recourse to extraordinary measures of this kind unless you are obliged to do so; but let me remind your Lordships of what has happened. The whole of the proclamations under the Act of 1887 were, unless I am wrong, simultaneously withdrawn, in what seemed to most of us a rather theatrical manner, and this was coupled with the announcement that the Act was dead and buried. That is a phrase which certainly was calculated to create the impression that under no circumstances would advantage ever be taken of that Act. That I do not understand to be what the noble Earl has told us this evening. I understood him to say that, so long as His Majesty's Government could, they would rely on the ordinary law.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Perhaps I ought to explain that I have no anticipation that the Crimes Act will be brought into force, but I should certainly guard myself from saying that there is no provision in that Act which under no circumstances could be brought into force either in Ireland or in any part of the United Kingdom.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: At any rate I take it the Government do not intend to go so far as to tell us that, no matter how grave the condition of the country may become, they will not avail themselves of the exceptional powers conferred by the Crimes Act of 1887. At any rate they stop short of that.

I know that the reluctance of His Majesty's Ministers to deal vigorously with this matter arises from their feeling that they should spare no pains to conciliate the people of Ireland. But whom do they expect to conciliate by an exhibition of timidity? You may roughly divide the people with whom you have to deal into two classes. You have the professional politicians, the wire-pullers, and their dupes. If you think you are going to conciliate people of that sort by giving them a free hand to preach disorder throughout the country you are very much mistaken. I believe that your timidity will not be of any avail, and that all you will get for your pains will be ridicule instead of gratitude.

Then, my Lords, there is the great body of the peasantry of Ireland. The peasantry of Ireland never were better off or in a more prosperous condition than at present. You have given the Irish farmer his land at a fair rent, you have given him security of tenure, and now you have given him the power to acquire the fee simple of his land on terms of the most advantageous description. I say without hesitation that in the civilised world there is no cultivator of the soil who occupies his holding upon conditions as favourable, or half as favourable, as the Irish farmer. It is a cruel kindness to these people to allow their thoughts to be turned from the vocation which they are following, to divert their attention from their legitimate aspirations to acquire the ownership of the soil, towards visionary schemes, towards the reopening of questions already settled, towards the idea that if they agitate long enough they will get terms even more favourable than those to which they already have access. I earnestly trust that, after what has been said to-night, the period of hesitation through which I cannot help thinking His Majesty's Government have passed is at an end, and that they will address themselves seriously to checking a movement which has already become so serious, and which, if it goes on unchecked, will bring disaster to all classes of the community in Ireland.

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 5th June, 1907.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Central London Railway Bill.—As amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed.

Clyde Navigation Provisional Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Clyde Navigation," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and ordered, under Section 7 of the Act, to be considered upon Monday next.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [Lords]; Southend Water Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table.

Harbour Authorities (Ireland) Bill.—Second Reading deferred from to-morrow till Monday, 17th June.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the District Committee of the First or Upper District of the county of Renfrew to construct and maintain water works and to supply water within their district; to authorise the County Council of the county of Renfrew to acquire the undertaking of the Busby Water Company and other lands and servitudes for the purposes of such water supply; to authorise and require the said county council to levy assessments and to borrow money for such water works, undertaking, and supply; to authorise the county council to acquire land for sewage purification works; and for other purposes." [Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [Lords].

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COMPANIES BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Calderhead, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petitions against: From Ditton; Kirkdale (three); and, West Derby (two); to lie upon the Table.

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against: From Southsea; and, Winkfield; to lie upon the Table.

MORTGAGE OF PREMISES BILL.

Petition from Huddersfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MUNICIPAL MILK DEPOTS BILL.

Petition from Kensington, against; to lie upon the Table.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND JUDGE'S COURT (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th May; *Mr. Clancy*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 178.]

MINES (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of First Report of the Royal Commission on Mines (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices, Vol. 1) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AUSTRALASIA.

Copy presented, of Further Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3812 and 3813 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 1st June, 1907, respecting the addition of years to be assigned, for pension purposes, to the office of Senior Inspector under the Board of National Education in Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL APPEAL [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament of salaries and expenses incurred in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal and to amend the Law relating to Appeals in Criminal Cases (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Payment for Christmas Overtime in Bradford Post Office.

MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General why certain Bradford postmen have not yet been paid for overtime which they worked on Friday, 28th December, and Saturday, 29th December, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is not usual to pay postmen for overtime due to prolonged delivery (which as a rule cannot be checked) except on certain days of extreme pressure at Christmas time. The 28th and 29th of December were not among these days. I regret that a decision on this case has been delayed owing to the official papers having been accidentally mislaid.

Delivery of Indian Mail on June 1st.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the Indian mail was in the hands of the Post Office before 11 a.m. on Saturday, and why no letters were delivered in the City earlier than 1.30 p.m., or newspapers before 4.55 p.m., even in cases where special arrangements for the delivery of newspapers are in existence.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) On the occasion to which the hon. Member refers the Indian mail, which came to hand after 11 a.m., was exceptionally heavy, and, notwithstanding the employment of a large additional force, it was not possible to effect an earlier delivery. So far as the City was concerned the bulk of the letters were sent out by postmen who left the General Post Office between 12.45 and 1.20 p.m., and a number of them were delivered before 1.30. p.m. The hon. Member may rest assured that on occasions, such as the one under question, all possible steps are taken to ensure the delivery of the mails as soon as possible.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of John Maguire.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from John Maguire, Drumkeany, parish of Cloone, an evicted tenant on the Lauder estate, in county Leitrim; and, if so, will the same be investigated by an inspector.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners cannot trace the receipt of any application from the person referred to in the Question.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mrs. Bridget Craemar.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Mrs. Bridget Craemar, Kiltynashinagh, Ballinamore, an evicted tenant on the Marsham estate, in county Leitrim; and, if so, will the same be investigated by an inspector.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have inquired into this application, and have ascertained that the eviction took place in consequence of a dispute regarding the tenancy among members of the evicted tenant's family. The Commissioners have not succeeded in settling this dispute, and have, therefore, decided to postpone the further consideration of the application until they are dealing with the estate upon which the evicted farm is situate.

Protestants and Catholics in Ireland.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will cause an inquiry to be made as to the alleged grievances from which Protestants, as such, suffer at the hands of their Catholic neighbours in those counties in Ireland where the Catholics are in a majority; and whether he will issue a Return showing the number of Protestants appointed on representative Irish Boards where the Catholics are in a majority, and of the number of Catholics appointed on Boards where the Protestants are in a majority.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I do not think it would be possible to undertake the inquiry which the hon. Member suggests. The Government have no information as to the religious persuasion of members of elected bodies in Ireland, and do not propose to make any inquiry on the subject.

Sentence for Stealing Milk at Rutland.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of two brothers, Divers Horton and John Robert Horton, who were sentenced to three months' imprisonment each at the Rutland quarter sessions for stealing one pint of milk; and whether, in view of the character of the sentence and of the fact that one of the prisoners has never been convicted before, he will, under the circumstances, remit the remainder of the sentence, seeing that these men have already been in prison six weeks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) No representation has been made to me in this case other than the Question of the hon. Member. I am making inquiry into it.

Grant to Cornelius Cahill, of Clonoul, County Limerick.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say when the Estates Commissioners will give a grant to Cornelius Cahill, of Clonoul, Croagh, in the county of Limerick, evicted tenant, to enable him to work his evicted farm, in which he has been reinstated by the landlord; and whether, seeing that there is little likelihood of an immediate sale of the estate by the landlord to the tenants, they will do so without waiting until a sale takes place.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have asked for the landlord's consent to an inspection of the holding with a view to arranging a sale to Cornelius Cahill. If a sale should be arranged the Commissioners will consider the question of making a grant to Cahill, otherwise they have no power to make such a grant.

Guaranteed Loans to Colonies.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the precedents for guaranteeing loans to Colonies having full responsible government; and under what circumstances were each of these loans guaranteed.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Guarantees have been given in favour of three loans raised by New Zealand and three raised by Canada.

New Zealand:—

(1) A loan of £500,000 in 1857 (20 and 21 Vic., cap. 51) to provide for the payment of debts due by the Colony and for the purchase of native lands;

(2) A loan of £500,000 in 1866 (29 and 30 Vic., cap. 104) for the purpose of expenses in connection with the New Zealand war, immigration, and other purposes;

(3) A loan of £1,000,000 in 1870 (33 and 34 Vic., cap. 40) for the construction of roads, bridges, and other communications, and for the introduction of settlers.

Canada:—

(1) A loan of £3,000,000 in 1867 (30 Vic., cap. 16) for the construction of a railway connecting Quebec and Halifax;

(2) A loan of £300,000 in 1869 (32 and 33 Vic., cap. 101) for the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson Bay Company.

(3) A loan of £3,600,000 in 1873 (36 and 37 Vic., cap. 45) for the construction of the Pacific Railway and the improvement and enlargement of the Canadian canals.

This loan was, to the extent of £1,100,000, in lieu of a guaranteed loan of that amount which had been authorised in 1870 (33 and 34 Vic., cap. 82) for the construction of fortifications, but was not raised.

The Domicile Act, 1861—Application to China.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Domicile Act of 1861 has been applied to China, including Shanghai.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The reply is in the negative.

Boy Artificers as 5th Class Engine Room Artificers.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the boy artificers promoted to the fifth-class engine-room artificers, and sent to ships abroad, have been favourably reported upon; and whether they are being borne as additional to the usual complement, or in lieu of others whose time has expired.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The reports have not yet been received. These artificers are borne additional to complement.

Engine-Room Artificers in the Navy—Supply of Candidates.

MR. BOWERMAN: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any difficulty is experienced in obtaining candidates for engine-room artificers; how many of them are expected to leave the naval service on pension during the present financial year, and what proportion of this number it is proposed to obtain from engineering shops in the country; and what is the percentage of failures among those now presenting themselves for entry.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining candidates. Taking the average of the last seven years, it is anticipated that about thirty engine-room artificers will complete time for pension during the present year. It is proposed to obtain about 30 per cent. of the number of entries required for the year from engineering shops in the country. The percentage of failures among candidates last year was twenty-six.

Belfast Factories and the Truck Act.

MR. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the frequent deductions from the wages of employees in Belfast factories and workshops in violation of the provisions of the Truck Acts; and whether he will direct the local inspector of factories to see that the provisions of the Acts are more rigidly enforced.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Complaints have been received with regard to the bonus system adopted in certain factories in this district, and a case was taken last year to test the legality of the system. In that case, Deane *v.* Wilson and Co., the High Court held that no violation of the Truck Acts had been committed. Apart from this question, which is now under the consideration of the Departmental Committee on the Truck Acts, I am not aware that there is any prevalence of truck abuses in this district; but if the hon. Member will furnish me with the particulars of any cases that have been brought to his notice they shall be inquired into.

Regulation of Motor Traffic.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the Report of the Royal Commission on Motor Cars, he can see his way to introduce a Bill dealing with the regulations affecting motor traffic, so that an opportunity may be given to the House of Commons and the public generally of discussing its provisions with a view to legislation next session.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to this Question. Looking to the statement made by the Prime Minister on Monday last, with reference to the business of the session, there would not seem to be any probability that time could be found for the discussion this year of such a Bill as that suggested, and, in these circumstances, it does not appear to me that there would be any advantage in its being introduced.

Portrush Post Office Accommodation.

COLONEL M'CALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been directed to the inadequate accommodation for the public and officials in the Portrush post office; and when it is proposed to effect an improvement.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) A site for the erection of a new post office has been acquired, and it is hoped that building operations will be begun shortly.

Appointments for Telegraph Learners at Bristol.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that telegraphs learners at Bristol, after waiting three years for appointment, have now been asked if they are prepared to leave that office in order to secure positions upon the establishment; and whether, seeing that a competitive examination is announced to be held at Bristol in July, 1907, for the post of telegraph learners, he will state the reason for his decision to add to the staff of learners, in view of the fact that he cannot find vacancies for those already placed in the Bristol office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Certain telegraph learners at Bristol, whose promotion to the establishment at that office has been delayed longer than was anticipated, by reason of an unexpected dearth of vacancies, have been offered opportunities of early promotion elsewhere, but, with one exception, have preferred, to wait their turn at Bristol. The learnerships to be filled by examination in July will supply officers for appointment to the establishment, not now but some two years hence, and not affect the prospects of the existing learners.

Vagrancy in Surrey.

MR. BRODIE : To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the annoyance caused to the public in the county of Surrey by vagrants and, if not, whether he will ask for information from the local authorities in the county so that he may convince himself of the desirability, or not, of introducing legislation at an early date on the lines of the Report of the Departmental Commission on Vagrancy.

MR. ARNOLD HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) : To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the annoyance caused to the public in South Bucks by vagrants ; and, if not, whether he will ask for information from the local authorities, particularly of Slough and Wycombe, so that he may convince himself of the desirability of introducing legislation at an early date on the lines of the Report of the Departmental Commission on Vagrancy.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I will answer these two Questions together. I am aware that annoyance is caused by vagrants in various parts of the country, and I do not think it necessary to obtain further information on the subject from the local authorities of the particular counties referred to. As I have stated on previous occasions, I am in communication with my right hon. friend the Home Secretary with regard to the Report of the Committee, but I do not think it will be practicable to propose legislation with repect to the matter this year.

Strength of the Artillery.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) : To ask the Secretary of State for War what was the strength of the Royal Horse and Field Artillery and the Royal Garrison Artillery respectively with the colours on 1st May.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The figures are as under, incuding India—

Strength of the Royal Artillery on the 1st May, 1907.

	Officers.	Warrant officers.	Non-commissioned officers and men.	Total.
Royal Horse Artillery -	174	9	5,020	5,203
Royal Field Artillery -	908	49	24,254	25,211
Total : Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery -	1,082	58	29,274	30,414
Royal Garrison Artillery	894	83	18,588	19,565
Royal Artillery Clerks -	—	22	230	252
Grand Total : Royal Artillery -	1,976	163	48,092	50,231

Rates of Pay of the Territorial Cavalry.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether during the first two years of the Territorial Army there will be two rates of pay in the Territorial cavalry, *i.e.*, the rate under which the recruits of the two previous years have been enlisted and that of the recruits of the current year; and how he proposes to make this a working arrangement.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Yes, Sir, there will be two rates of pay, as vested rights are recognised, under Section 28 (2) of the Bill, for the whole of a man's current engagement. The same conditions are not unknown in the Regular Army, and no serious difficulty need be anticipated.

Civilian Buildings on Salisbury Plain.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War what decision has now been arrived at as to the advisability of providing civilian buildings in the nature of private residences, shops, stores, etc., on Government land at Salisbury Plain (see *Hansard*, 14th Febuary, 1907, page 298).

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The matter is receiving careful consideration. I am not yet, however, in a position to make a statement on the subject.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Navy Supplies.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that nearly all the tinned meat supplied to the Army and Navy comes from foreign countries, because it can be supplied cheaper than meat grown in Great Britain, Ireland, or the Colonies, he will say whether the same rule applies to the various articles, as well as granite, used for the Navy, such as chains, anchors, furniture, and the many other necessary articles required by the Admiralty.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The hon. Gentleman will find a full statement of the Admiralty policy in my reply to a Question from the hon. Member for Fareham on 5th March last year.† But, as a matter of fact, I may add that the tinned meat consumed in the Navy is now purchased mainly from Australia and New Zealand.

MR. HUNT: Does the Government buy on the principle of buying in the cheapest market for all these things, or does it not?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: That Question is answered in the Reply given by me on 5th March last year.

MR. HUNT: Could we have the Answer now? Is the right hon. Gentleman afraid?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the Answer he had given was in accordance with Parliamentary practice.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether any orders for cable chains and anchors are at the present time placed abroad?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I do not think so, but the right hon. Gentlemen might put the Question on the Paper. [AN HON. MEMBER: "It is in the Question."]

Territorial Army—Embodiment.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed that embodiment for six months, in the case of general mobilisation, shall be a condition of enlistment for men for the proposed Territorial Army; if so, whether it is proposed to enforce such a condition; and, if such an intention exists, what specific provision for giving effect to it is included in the Bill now before the House.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): Men enlisting into the Territorial Force will be liable under Clause 16 of the Bill to embodiment, which can be enforced under Clause 19. It is obviously impracticable to settle by statute or otherwise the period for which it may be necessary to embody either the whole or part of the Territorial Force, in the event of war.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 80, 81.

Volunteers' Corps Funds.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now say what will become of the assets and funds which certain Volunteer corps have accumulated by good management and economy.

MR. HALDANE: I would refer the hon. Member to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the Finance Member of the Army Council in Command Paper No. 3370 for the Answer to this Question.

Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society, Limited.

Mr. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is in accordance with the Regulations and Orders for the Army that officers on full pay should be employed on the committee of management of the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society, Limited; and, if so, seeing that this is calculated to cause bias and lay such officers open to the suspicion of being influenced in the giving of garrison or regimental contracts, and with a view to securing open competition in the interests of the soldier, if he is prepared to take any action in the matter.

MR. HALDANE: I explained to my hon. friend, in reply to a similar Question on the 28th November last, that the officers on full pay at present on the board of this society receive no remuneration for their services, and not one of them has any pecuniary interest in the business. These officers hold no shares, and are on the Committee of Management only for the very necessary purpose of looking after the interests of the soldiers.

MR. LEA: These officers while looking after the society are drawing full pay from the Army.

MR. HALDANE: Of course.

Discharges from Woolwich.

SIR J. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what number of men have been discharged during the last 12 months at Woolwich who have served over ten years.

MR. HALDANE: The number of men discharged at Woolwich since the 1st January with over ten years service is 351. It would take a little time to obtain the number of men of the same service discharged during the last twelve months, but I will have the figures got out and sent to the hon. Member.

SIR J. RANDLES: I presume the right hon. Gentleman has taken every possible step to reduce the discharges of men of long service?

MR. HALDANE: We are taking every step. I have been down myself, going through the cases with the superintendent, and endeavouring to reduce them to the absolute minimum.

Sir James Mackay.

SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD (Lincolnshire, Brigg): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government was consulted as to the appointment of Sir James Mackay to the late Colonial Conference.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): In the full Answer which the Secretary of State gave to a similar Question on 8th May,† he explained that he deputed Sir James Mackay to take his place at the Conference. He attended it as the Secretary of State's representative, and the question of consulting the Government of India did not arise.

Zanzibar.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received the Report, for which he asked, as to the most convenient measures to be taken to abolish the legal *status* of slavery in the Zanzibar coast strip, and also to abolish slavery altogether in the islands; and whether he will state what the proposed measures are, and if they have been put into operation.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 210, 211.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Report in question will not be received until about the end of June.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will action then follow?

MR. CHURCHILL: I hope action will then follow; but I must remind my right hon. friend that action in this case involves expense, so that we must not only consider the views of the Colonial Office, but also our power of convincing the Treasury. But already we are eagerly engaged in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): Is expense to be allowed to stand in the way of the abolition of slavery?

MR. CHURCHILL: I was not suggesting that. I was only pointing out that a consultation was necessary between the two Departments.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I will repeat the Question next month.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): Was not an absolute undertaking given in this matter?

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Did this *status* of slavery exist during the late administration?

[No Answer was returned.]

Transvaal Garrison.

MR. HUNT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if it is proposed that a large voluntary force should be organised in the Transvaal; whether this suggestion comprises the raising of a Volunteer Force of artillery; whether the Transvaal Government have ordered, or propose to order, any reduction to be effected in the cost of the present Volunteer Forces of that Colony; and whether the Transvaal Government have given, or propose to give, instructions that any reduction should be made in the South African Constabulary in the Transvaal.

MR. CHURCHILL: While the Imperial troops in South Africa are maintained at their present strength it is obvious that no large Volunteer Force equipped, as the hon. Member suggests, with artillery, is needed for the maintenance of peace and order; and it is not proposed that any such force should be organised. In regard to the second part of the Question of the hon. Member, I must refer him to the Answer given by me to the hon. Member for Preston on 3rd June†; and in regard to the last part of the Question, the Transvaal Government have not, so far as I am aware, as yet given any instructions for reductions in the Constabulary.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): Is it the intention to allow the Boer Government to have artillery?

MR. CHURCHILL: The Question is couched in unfortunate language, and it has already been answered. If further information is required, the hon. and gallant Member will best consult public interests by giving notice of the Question.

Nairobi Gaol.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what improvements have recently been made in the gaol at Nairobi; and what improvements are in contemplation.

MR. CHURCHILL: A sum of £5,000 has been provided on the Estimates for this year out of a total sum of £15,029 required to build a new gaol suitable for European prisoners at Nairobi. The Secretary of State is not aware whether the building operations have been already commenced.

MR. ASHLEY: I want to know what improvements have been recently effected there?

MR. CHURCHILL was unable to state what progress had been made.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Have any complaints recently been received from British prisoners in the Nairobi gaol?

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† See pages 298–9.

MR. CHURCHILL: Complaints are often received as to the accommodation and treatment of prisoners.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): Is it not the fact that prisoners are never satisfied?

MR. CHURCHILL: Very likely.

The Transvaal Loan.

SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government or any member of the Government has received a petition or a memorial signed by over 100 Members urging them to elicit from General Botha an undertaking that the Chinese now in South Africa should be repatriated at the expiration of their licences; and whether he can give any assurance that the guarantee of the forthcoming loan to the Transvaal is not based on any such undertaking.

MR. CHURCHILL: I know nothing of such a memorial or petition except from the columns of certain newspapers, and I would advise the hon. Baronet not to pay too much attention to silly rumours of this kind.

SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD: May I tell the right hon. Gentleman——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member is not entitled to make a statement, he can only ask a Question.

Zulu Chiefs at St. Helena.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether twenty-two Zulus, with three chiefs, including Tilonko, who has presented a petition to the King showing that his sentence was illegal, have been deported to St. Helena from Natal; if so, whether the prisoners will be kept in St. Helena at the expense of the Imperial Government or of Natal; and whether he will lay upon the Table Papers showing the negotiations which have taken place between the Natal Government and His Majesty's Government regarding the deportations.

MR. CHURCHILL: Twenty-five prisoners including Tilonko have been deported to St. Helena from Natal. The cost will be borne by the Government of Natal. Papers will be laid as soon as the necessary communications have been made to the Government of Natal.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY inquired if any addition was to be made to the St. Helena garrison?

MR. CHURCHILL'S reply was inaudible in the Press Gallery.

Railways in Nigeria.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when a definite statement as to the railway development in Nigeria may be expected.

MR. CHURCHILL: We are still waiting for Sir Percy Girouard's Report.

North Sea Fishery Investigations.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that His Majesty's Government have decided to continue to participate in the North Sea Fishery investigations until July, 1908, will he state what Foreign Governments will also participate in the investigations until that date.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): The matter is not yet definitely settled.

Anglo-Russian Treaty.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government are negotiating a treaty or other form of understanding with the Russian Government; whether he is in a position to make any statement on the subject to the House; and whether, before committing the country to such an agreement, he will consider the feelings of organised labour and those holding Liberal opinions regarding the relations of the Russian Government to its subjects.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend is unable to make any statement on this subject at present. But he cannot admit that internal affairs in Russia are relevant to any discussion of matters affecting the respective frontiers of the two countries with the object of preventing difficulties which might otherwise arise between them.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: Am I to understand that the Governments are only negotiating on frontier questions and not on general questions?

MR. RUNCIMAN: That is what I have said.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): Would not a good understanding with Russia be of advantage to all parties?

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Are the two Governments negotiating?

MR. RUNCIMAN: That was stated some time ago in this House.

New Hebrides Convention.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what were the terms of reference to the Anglo-French Commission which has been recently considering questions arising out of the New Hebrides Convention; and when the Report will be published.

MR. RUNCIMAN: As my right hon. friend has already stated, the Anglo-French Committee assembled in order to arrange certain matters connected with the working of the Joint Court. The questions discussed comprised the salaries, leave allowances, etc., of the members of the Court, as provided for in Article 10, Section 4, of the Convention of October last. The arrangements suggested by the Committee are now being considered by the two Governments, and will be published if, and when, they are mutually accepted. Other matters connected with the Convention are discussed apart from the proceedings of this Committee.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who were the members of the Anglo-French Commission which has been recently appointed to consider questions connected with the New Hebrides.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Mr. Louis Mallet, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. F. Fitchell, Solicitor-General for New Zealand, represented His Majesty's Government on the Committee. The French Government were represented by Monsieur Weber and le Comte de Manneville.

Income-Tax.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date individuals are required by law to make their returns for the purpose of the assessment of income-tax; whether the law is the same in England and Scotland; and whether the practice in both countries is the same.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Returns are required by law to be made within such period, not exceeding twenty-one days from the date of the notice requiring the return, as may be fixed by the notice. There is no statutory date for the issue of the notices, but the practice is to issue them during April and May both in England and Scotland, and to allow the full period of twenty-one days in both countries.

Death Duties.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that persons succeeding to property, agreements for the sale of which have been made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, suffer hardship in being required to pay death duties cash down on the property as personalty, although the purchase price cannot be obtained and the owners are receiving only 3½ per cent. interest on the capital sum pending the sanctioning of the advance; and whether, in such cases, the property can be treated as realty until the money is actually paid over, and one-eighth of the duty only charged until the capital sum is received, when the remainder of the duty should be collected.

MR. ASQUITH: It is not the case that the property represented by an agreed sale of the kind described is treated as personal property on which the estate duty must be paid in one sum. The Board of Inland Revenue are quite willing to accept payment by instalments in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 (8) of the Finance Act, 1894, pending completion of the sale. But the payment even of the instalments may sometimes be difficult for the responsible persons to provide, and, where this is the case, the Board, with the approval of the Treasury, would be disposed to say that the annual (or semi-annual) payments may be limited to the amount of interest due on the unpaid portion of the estate duty, until completion of the sale, when the whole amount of the estate duty outstanding should be paid out of the purchase money.

Old Age Pensions.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the fact that the Irish Council Bill is not to be proceeded with, he will consider the possibility of devoting the sum which would have been payable to Ireland by the Exchequer under that Bill to the fund, the nucleus of which is provided in the present year's Budget, for the purpose of old age pensions; and, if not, can he say to what purpose, if any, he intends to devote the sum which the change in the Government's programme will place at his disposal.

MR. ASQUITH: No part of the sum in question would in any event have been a charge upon the revenue of the current financial year. I cannot at this date anticipate next year's Budget statement.

Guaranteed Colonial Loans.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state the occasions on and the circumstances under which the Imperial Government has guaranteed the loans of any self-governing Colony.

MR. ASQUITH: Guarantees have been given in favour of three loans raised by New Zealand and three raised by Canada. New Zealand: (1) A loan of £500,000 in 1857 (20 and 21 Vict., cap. 51), to provide for the payment of the debts due by the Colony, and for the purchase of native lands; (2) a loan of £500,000 in 1866 (29 and 30 Vict., cap. 104), for the purpose of expenses in connection with the New Zealand war, immigration, and other purposes; (3) a loan of £1,000,000 in 1870 (33 and 34 Vict., cap. 40), for the construction of roads, bridges, and other communications, and for the introduction of settlers. Canada: (1) A loan of £3,000,000 in 1867 (30 Vict., cap. 16), for the construction of a railway connecting Quebec and Halifax; (2) a loan of £300,000 in 1869 (32 and 33 Vict., cap. 101), for the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson Bay Company; (3) a loan of £3,600,000 in 1873 (36 and 37 Vict., cap. 45), for the construction of the Pacific Railway, and the improvement and enlargement of the Canadian canals. This loan was, to the extent of £1,100,000, in lieu of a guaranteed loan of that amount which had been authorised in 1870 (33 and 34 Vict., cap. 82), for the construction of fortifications, but was not raised.

Alness River, Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state what part of the Alness River, Ross-shire, is under the control of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests; is any part of the river leased; if so, what part, to whom, at what rental, and for what period.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that the salmon fishings in the River Alness *ex adverso* a part of the Coull Estate are let by the Commissioners of Woods to Mr. S. C. Munro, for a term of ten years, from Martinmas, 1900, at the rent of £6 per annum. This is the only part of the river which is at present under the control of the Commissioners.

Assistant Clerks in the Civil Service.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what steps, if any, he proposes to take to alleviate the discontent amongst the new class assistant clerks in the Civil Service, seeing that a petition for the appointment of an inquiry into their case, which had been signed by a majority of the Members of this House, had been refused.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The pay and conditions of service of the assistant clerks of the new class have repeatedly received careful consideration in the last few years, and I do not see my way to suggest any change.

Case of Albert Bach.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can see his way to advise His Majesty to grant a free pardon to Albert Bach, who was sentenced by Sir Ralph Littler at the Middlesex Sessions on 9th January, 1904, to seven years penal servitude for the offence of receiving stolen goods to the value of £3 15s., in consequence of his age, and in view of the fact that he has all his life borne an excellent character.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Both I and my predecessor have repeatedly given most careful consideration to this case, but I regret that I have not found any sufficient grounds for recommending any interference on the convict's behalf. Articles forming part of the proceeds of three separate cases of housebreaking were discovered in his shop. I may add that a receiver of stolen goods who has a good reputation is for that reason a more dangerous criminal.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): Did not the right hon. Gentleman himself state in this House recently that good character was a reason for imposing a light penalty?

MR. GLADSTONE: It is a question for the Court.

Case of William Tutt.

MR. BLACK (Bedfordshire, Biggleswade): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of William Tutt, who was arrested while on a visit to his mother, aged eighty-three, at Lidlington, Bedfordshire, on Tuesday, 28th May, and committed to prison at Bedford for three months on a warrant, dated 1st November, 1894, for shooting a hare on the Duke of Bedford's estate at Lidlington on 21st October, 1894; and whether, in view of the fact that this man has borne a good character in Lancashire during the whole of the intervening twelve and a half years, and that he has already been in prison eight days, he can see his way to order Tutt's immediate release.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am not yet sufficiently in possession of the facts of this case to come to a decision with regard to it, but I will communicate further with my hon. friend as soon as I can.

Accidents in Mines and Quarries.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Report and evidence of the Royal Commission which has been considering the health and safety of miners, can be laid upon the Table forthwith in order to prevent the delay which would occur owing to the decision of the Government that the scope of the Commission shall be enlarged by reporting upon accidents in quarries.

MR. GLADSTONE: The first Report of the Commission, which deals with the use of breathing appliances, will be presented to Parliament this week, and I am informed that the first volume of evidence is likely to be ready next week. A large number of questions connected with coal mines, upon which evidence is now being taken, remain to be dealt with by the Commission, and I understand that they intend to present their Report upon these before proceeding to that part of their inquiry which relates to quarries.

MR. COCHRANE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if any additional members have been appointed to the Royal Commission on Coal Mines, in view of the enlargement of the scope of the reference so as to include the question of accidents in quarries.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Answer is in the negative. The question of appointing additional members will be considered when the Commission are about to enter on that part of their inquiry which relates to quarries.

The Home Office and Messrs. Kynoch.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that about nine months ago the magazines of Messrs. Kynoch, Limited, were seized and shut down by order of the Home Office, on the ground that certain explosives manufactured by them at their Arklow works contained ingredients contrary to the licence issued by the Home Office, and that during that period Messrs. Kynoch have been precluded from manufacturing this explosive; if he is aware that, during this period, certain English firms have manufactured explosives containing the same ingredient as that used by Messrs. Kynoch; whether he is aware that explosives manufactured abroad, and which also contain the same ingredient, have been, and are being, imported into this country; if he is not aware of these facts, will he have inquiries made as to whether English manufacturers are using this ingredient; and, if so, does he intend to take the same action against them as he has already taken against Messrs. Kynoch.

Mr. GLADSTONE: No magazines have been seized, there being no power under the Explosives Act to do so. Explosives of unauthorised composition have been seized in certain magazines belonging to Messrs. Kynoch, but this in no way prevents these magazines from being used for the storage of other explosives, so long as the seized explosives are not removed, and the total quantity for which the magazine is licensed is not exceeded. Messrs. Kynoch have in no way been precluded from manufacturing explosives of authorised composition. One other English firm has admitted the use of chloride of mercury, and its case is being dealt with. Inquiry is being made in a third case. But, so far as I am aware, no other manufacturer has added an unauthorised ingredient since the Kynoch seizure took place. Three foreign firms have been detected in sending to this country explosives containing mercury, and large consignments have been returned to the factories of origin, whereby the firms in question have been put to great expense. Two of these firms have given guarantees that the offence will not be repeated. I shall make no distinction between Messrs. Kynoch and any other firm discovered to be acting in a similar manner.

Mr. MOONEY: Arising out of that, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman this. He said one other English firm had been dealt with. What does he mean by "being dealt with"? Is that English firm being dealt with in the same way as Kynoch's. Has the magazine been seized?

Mr. GLADSTONE: Action is being taken, and the hon. Gentleman will have the opportunity of seeing exactly what is being done. I do not say that in the case I am referring to they acted in precisely the same way as Messrs. Kynoch.

Mr. MOONEY: Arising out of that, the allegation which I have made against the Home Office is that they treated Messrs. Kynoch in a distinct and separate manner from the other manufacturers, and in view of that statement I wish to know what the right hon. Gentleman means by saying that this other firm is being dealt with. Is he going to treat that firm in the same manner?

Mr. GLADSTONE: There will be a prosecution. Steps are being taken.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Has the Home Office seized the magazines of those other manufacturers in the same way that they seized those of Messrs. Kynoch?

Mr. GLADSTONE: No. I am informed that when the use of this substance was brought to the knowledge of the responsible owners of the works they withdrew all the explosives which contained the particular ingredient. Messrs. Kynoch, on the other hand, as I am informed, certainly declined to admit that the ingredient was there at all, and resisted all steps taken.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Is it not a fact that for weeks and weeks, not to speak of months, it was known to the Inspectors of the Home Office and to the right hon. Gentleman that other manufacturers besides Messrs. Kynoch were manufacturing with this ingredient, and will he explain why the delay had taken place?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have already explained that legal proceedings were taken against Messrs. Kynoch, and judgment at quarter sessions has only recently been obtained. It was necessary to know how the law stood before dealing with the others.

Mr. MOONEY: I have asked the right hon. Gentleman does he intend to take the same action against this firm as was taken against Kynoch's. I wish to know was it not in his power, at the time of taking action against Kynoch's to take action under a section of the Act of Parliament which would have done away with the necessity of seizing the magazines and so giving an advantage to their trade rivals. Is that the way the right hon. Gentleman is going to proceed against the English firm ?

MR. GLADSTONE: It is rather difficult to answer a Question of that kind, because the circumstances might be different. I have already said that I wish to make no distinction between Messrs. Kynoch and any other firm acting in a similar manner.

MR. MOONEY: Is it intended to take action against the English firm under the same section under which Messrs. Kynoch were proceeded against ?

MR. GLADSTONE: That is so.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Mr. Chamberlain, the Chairman of Kynoch's, made a public statement that the reason they were proceeded against was that they were an Irish firm ?

MR. GLADSTONE: It is quite impossible to make a more ridiculous statement.

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the charge against Messrs. Kynoch was one of using an infinitesimal quantity of perchloride of mercury (one in 100,000 parts of the finished article) as an antiseptic or steriliser in the manufacture of high explosives, for the purpose of preserving them against decomposition under varying climatic changes; whether perchloride of mercury is the most powerful antiseptic known for this purpose, and is habitually used in England, Germany, and other countries for this purpose; and whether he can give the number of fatal accidents which have occurred in the following factories during the years 1896 to 1905, inclusive: Nobel's, Curtis and Harvey, National Explosives, Cotton Powder Company, Eley's, War Office, Kynoch.

MR. GLADSTONE: The quantity of mercuric chloride mentioned is quite sufficient to vitiate the official test. The use of antiseptic in gelatinised explosives is unnecessary. Mercury is not habitually used in this country, and there is reason to believe that elsewhere it is used for the purpose of masking the heat test rather than as an antiseptic. The number of accidents at the factories mentioned can be obtained from the annual reports of His Majesty's inspectors of explosives, but I may say at once that the result of such comparison is quite favourable to Kynoch's. The danger of the use of mercuric chloride, however, arises principally after the explosive leaves the factory, because it lies in the keeping and using of the explosive rather than in its manufacture.

MR. MOONEY: May I ask how is it that when other Members ask a Question which involves some figures with regard to industrial matters in England the right hon. Gentleman is always willing to give them, yet he does not do so now, although the matter is within knowledge of his Department ?

MR. GLADSTONE: Do I understand the hon. Member wants the figures ?

MR. MOONEY: Yes.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I did not receive them in time to embody them in my Answer, but I now have them here and they are as follows:—

Years 1896 to 1905.

Company.	No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed
The Cotton Powder Co., Ltd.	3	4
Curtis & Harvey Ltd. - -	5	14
Eley Brothers, Ltd. - -	1	1
Kynoch, Ltd. . - -	2	3
The National Explosives Co., Ltd. - - - - -	2	5
Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd. -	6	13
Waltham Abbey - - -	1	3

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is it not a fact that during the last ten years not a single life was lost in the Arklow factory?

MR. GLADSTONE: I take it that it is so from the hon. Member.

Manchester Betting Prosecutions.

MR. CLYNES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a man named Townley is now serving a month's imprisonment for making a bet with a bookmaker in Manchester, and that police officers are employed to make bets in connection with these prosecutions; whether he has any record to show that street betting, or nuisance arising therefrom, has been diminished by the operations of the recent Act; and, if so, whether it is proposed to extend legislation to other classes and places so as to prevent gambling which is not now touched by the law.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am making inquiry into the matter to which the hon. Member refers, but in any event I do not see my way at present to propose any amendment of the Act of last session. Experience of the working of that Act has as yet been short, but I have no reason to doubt that it is having a very good effect.

Water Supply Sources.

MR. MACLEAN (Bath): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is now in a position to state his intentions with regard to the representations made to him last session as to the urgent need for an inquiry into the necessity for the protection and development of water-gathering grounds and other sources of water supply, the allocation of such sources on a comprehensive and equitable basis, and the general control and supervision of this subject by a central and properly qualified body or Department.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have had under consideration the recommendations made in the third Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, with regard to the prevention of the pollution of water and other matters such as those referred to in the Question, and I had hoped that it would be practicable for me to propose legislation on the subject during the present session. I am afraid, however, that, looking to the demands on the time of the House for other business, it will not be possible to proceed with the matter this year; but I shall not lose sight of it.

Pauper Settlements.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the desirability of creating a more uniform system of settlement as between England and Scotland, in the case of pauper lunatics, having regard to the fact that such persons are at present removable from Scotland into England, while irremovable from England into Scotland.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am aware that there are difficulties in the way of removing pauper lunatics from England to Scotland, although such cases are removed from Scotland to England. It is, I think, desirable that there should be uniformity in this matter; but the whole subject of settlement and removal is included in those which are referred to the Royal Commission on the Poor Law for consideration and report, and it seems to me that, pending their Report, the particular point referred to in the Question could not well be dealt with by legislation.

Wincanton Hospital Scheme.

MR. THOMPSON (Somersetshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether an order of the Local Government Board has been made, after inquiry held, whereby the rural district of Wincanton, Somerset, has been constituted a hospital district and an isolation hospital established; whether there is any other purely rural districts in which such a hospital has been permanently provided; whether he is aware that the almost unanimous feeling in the district is opposed to the establishment of a permanent hospital; and whether, in view of the evidence in opposition offer at the inquiry, he is prepared to reconsider this Order.

MR. JOHN BURNS: An appeal was made to the Local Government Board against an Order of the Somersetshire

County Council constituting the Wincanton rural district a hospital district under the Isolation Hospitals Acts. The Board, after local inquiry, issued an Order dismissing the appeal, and I cannot now reopen the matter. There have been several cases in which rural districts have been constituted hospital districts under the Isolation Hospitals Acts, and many more in which permanent hospitals for infectious disease have been established in such districts under the Public Health Acts.

Case of Robert Kerrison.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to an inquest held at Brixton prison, on the 23rd May, on the body of Robert Kerrison, who was sentenced to a month's hard labour for failing to perform his allotted task at the Chelsea casual ward; whether he is aware that a witness at the inquested stated that Kerrison was not a strong man, and that the deceased had told him he was unable to break stones; and whether he will make inquiries of the prison authorities and prison medical officer as to the man's state of health and strength when he arrived at the prison, and the length of time which elapsed between the man's failure to perform the task and his becoming ill.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have sent for a copy of the depositions taken at the inquest in this case, and on receipt of them I will consider the suggestions made in the Question.

South Kensington College of Science.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state the names of those appointed to represent the Board of Education on the governing body of the new College of Science at South Kensington.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I hope to be in a position to announce the names next week.

Trained Teachers.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state the total number of trained teachers at present employed in Church of England, Catholic, Wesleyan, and council schools respectively; what number of persons were entitled to enter training colleges as the result of the last King's Scholarship examination; and what was the number of places available for them in Church, Catholic, Wesleyan, and undenominational colleges respectively.

MR. MCKENNA: If my hon. friend will put down his Question for Monday next, I will give him all the information in the possession of the Board.

Welsh Education Board.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the resolutions passed by the representatives of 17,000 Welsh Calvinistic Methodists at Mold, to call his attention to the satisfactory manner in which the Central Welsh Board has carried on the duties of inspection and examination of intermediate schools, and to the desirability of strengthening the authority of the Board by entrusting to it the entire inspection of such schools; and what action he proposes to take in view of this and other manifestations of the feeling in Wales in regard to this matter.

MR. MCKENNA: The relations between the Central Welsh Board and the Board of Education are receiving my careful consideration, but I am not yet in a position to make any statement on the subject.

The Judiciary.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the powers conferred upon His Majesty by Section 18 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, and Section 6 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, to appoint, on an Address by both Houses of Parliament, additional Judges of the High Court of Justice have been fully exercised, or in what manner and to what extent the same have been exercised; and, if not, whether, in view of the present serious congestion of business in the King's Bench Division and the Court of Appeal, His Majesty's Government will recommend Parliament to present such an address.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): The matter is still under consideration.

Tuberculosis in Pigs.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if his attention has been called to the recent action by Messrs. Boyd, of Carnmoney, against the Corporation of Belfast for the wrongful seizure of two pig carcases said to be affected with tuberculosis; and if, in view of that litigation, he will appoint a veterinary surgeon to whom such cases in Scotland can be referred, rather than to the Law Courts, which entail delay and expense on traders.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The case referred to by my hon. friend has not been brought under my notice. It would not be possible without legislation to compel either traders or corporations to refer such questions to an arbiter, and I do not see my way to introduce a Bill on the subject.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of trawlers prosecuted for illegal trawling in the Moray Firth during the year ending 31st December, 1906, distinguishing the nationality of each.

MR. SINCLAIR: During 1906 the masters of nine trawling vessels were prosecuted for trawling in the Moray Firth, and all the vessels carried the Norwegian flag.

Illegal Trawling Prosecutions in 1906.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many prosecutions for illegal trawling were instituted during the year ending 31st December, 1906, on information given by the commander of each Fishery Board cruiser, indicating the cases in which penalties were imposed and the cases in which the offenders elected to go to prison.

MR. SINCLAIR: The following is the information desired by the hon. Member:—

Name of Vessel.	Number of cases detected.	Number of such cases where penalties were imposed.	Number of such cases where accused went to prison.
F.C. "Brenda" - -	19	18	8
,, "Minna" - -	9	9	3
,, "Freya" - -	3	2	—
,, "Vigilant" - -	2	2	—
Totals - -	33	31	11

Beith Academy.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the public school known as Beith Academy has had advanced classes in which pupils and pupil teachers are trained for University and training college, that it is proposed to abolish these classes, that this is being done for the benefit of a fee-paying school governed by a board that is not publicly elected, and that the educational opportunities of the working classes of Beith will be thereby diminished; and whether he intends to take any action to prevent this breach of the principle of public control.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Beith Academy is under the control of a popularly elected body, viz., the school board of the parish of Beith, and as any changes which may have been made in the curriculum of the school must have been authorised by them, these changes cannot be regarded as a breach of the principle of public control.

Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) Bill.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the unanimity amongst the Scottish Members on both sides of the House as to the desirability of passing the Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) Bill, can he arrange for the Second Reading of the Bill to be taken.

MR. SINCLAIR: In view of the favour with which this small and uncontentious Bill is regarded on both sides of the House, I hope that the House may consent to read it a second time without discussion; and it will be put down for an early day with that end in view.

Irish Land Purchase in Disturbed Districts.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have dealt with sales of any estates out of their proper order because of local disorder or intimidation, or whether the estates are dealt with in order of rotation as the agreements are lodged; and whether any, and, if so, how many, estates are at present being dealt with out of order of lodgment of applications.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The Estates Commissioners deal with sales in the order of priority in which agreements for purchase are lodged, as provided by Regulation No. 1 of the Regulations dated 13th February, 1906. The Commissioners have not dealt with estates out of their proper order because of disorder or intimidation, but in six cases in which they have intervened as conciliators between landlord and tenant under the Eighth Regulation, they have, in order to facilitate a settlement, dealt with the cases without regard to priority of application. In twenty-one other cases the Commissioners have, in pursuance of Regulation No. 1, accelerated the sanction of the advances for reasons peculiar to the particular cases.

Athenry Disturbance.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the house of a publican named Duddy has been fired into at Athenry; if any arrests have been made; and if this district is in a peaceable condition.

MR. BIRRELL: I have already, on the 29th of last month,† stated the facts of this case in answer to a Question put by the hon. Member for the Rye Division. No arrests have been made. I have more than once stated that the district of Athenry is not in a satisfactory condition.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that an attack was made on Pat Smyth, process server, in Athenry; that he was cut on the head and deprived of a revolver which he was obliged to carry for his own protection; and what steps the police are taking in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: About four o'clock in the afternoon of 24th May, Patrick Smyth, who had a slight cut on the head, reported to the police that he had been assaulted by two men near Athenry. At first he made no mention of a revolver, but said that his stick was taken from him. Subsequently he said that his revolver was taken. Smyth informed the police that he was unable to identify his assailants. He was not sober at the time of the alleged assault.

Killemadeema Raid for Arms.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a party of masked men on 20th May raided the houses of a man in the employment of Lord Clancarty, and five others, at Killemadeema, near Loughrea, and carried off their arms; if any arrests have been made; and if this district is in a satisfactory condition.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that no offence of the nature described was committed on or about the 20th May. The Question is probably meant to refer to offences committed in the locality named on 9th May, and as to that I would refer to my Answer to the hon. Member for the Rye Division on 29th of last month.† No arrests have been made. This is one of the districts in the west of Ireland the condition of which is not satisfactory.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1654.

Broadford (Clare) Disturbance.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that on Thursday night, 23rd May, the house of Daniel Malony, in the Broadford district, county Clare, was fired into; have any arrests been made; and is it the intention of the Government to afford this man adequate protection.

MR. BIRRELL: Two men have been arrested upon the charge mentioned in the Question, and the proceedings are pending. The police have taken adequate measures for Malony's protection.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): In connection with all these Questions, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, outside the alleged trifling assault on a process server, anybody has suffered the slightest personal injury?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not know.

Kanturk Extra Police Tax.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he had seen a copy of the resolution of the Kanturk Rural District Council protesting against the tax for extra police charged upon the district, is he aware that upon a certain part of the district the tax amounts to 8½d. in the pound and in another to 4¾d.; and whether, seeing that white gloves were presented to the chairman of the East Riding of Cork County at the last sessions as a recognition of the crimelessness of the district, he will say what is the explanation for the imposition of this charge and under whose authority is the charge made.

MR. BIRRELL: I have received a copy of the resolution referred to, from which it appears that the charge for extra police involves a temporary increase in the rates to the amount stated. The charge in question is in respect of the half year ending 31st March, 1906. In November, 1905, the district of Newmarket was in a state of disturbance, and it was found necessary to send an extra force of twelve men of the Reserve for the purpose of restoring order. By the end of the following March the state of the district had improved, and the extra force was then reduced to three men. The extra force was sent to the disturbed area under the authority of the Irish Government, and the charge followed under statute as a matter of course.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that as proof of the crimeless condition and general good order of this district, the Judges have of late been frequently presented with white gloves?

MR. BIRRELL said he believed that that was so, but nevertheless special circumstances had arisen which necessitated giving this police protection.

Deductions for Irish County Council Grants.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any communications have passed between the Irish Office and the Treasury on the subject of the recent deductions from grants to county councils in Ireland in respect to the Land Act finance; and whether he can state when an opportunity for the discussion of this matter will be afforded.

MR. BIRRELL: The Irish Government and the Treasury are in communication upon the subject referred to in the Question, and I hope that either my hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury or myself will shortly be in a position to make a statement in the matter to the House. I have no doubt that if desired the Government will give facilities for a discussion of the matter.

Caheroyan Grazing Disputes.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the notices or letters, sent by the honorary secretary of the Athenry Town Tenants League to each of the grazing tenants on the Caheroyan estate in April last, contained the specific announcement that fifty men had been enrolled to clear the lands in the event of the tenant refusing to surrender his rights in his farm; whether, in view of the fact that the whole of the grazing tenants on this estate were forced to surrender their holdings owing to the threat contained in the said letter and to the active intimidation and boycotting which followed, he will take steps to prevent these farms being parcelled out amongst any persons who either participated in the intimidation referred to or is a member of the Athenry Town Tenants Association; and whether he intends to issue instructions for the prosecution of the honorary secretary and members of the Athenry Town Tenants Association for issuing the intimidating letter referred to.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that notices to the effect mentioned in the first part of the Question were delivered which purported to have come from the person named. As regards the second part of the Question; I would refer to my Answer to the Question put by the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division on 14th May.† The local police have endeavoured to procure evidence of the printing and publication of the notices referred to, but so far without success.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Has the right hon. Gentleman consulted the law officers as to whether there is a good case for prosecuting the persons indicated in the Question?

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir, I have not.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: If evidence as to handwriting is forthcoming, will proceedings be instituted against the secretary?

MR. BIRRELL: If such evidence is forthcoming it will be laid before the law officers.

Loughrea Intimidation Prosecution.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the evidence given by a police sergeant during the hearing of a charge at Loughrea, on 16th May, of intimidation against graziers, in which he stated that some of the prisoners, on being arrested, said they had a perfect right to act as they had, as they had the Government at their back; and what steps he intends to take to remove this idea.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that in the case referred to a police sergeant gave evidence that when the offence was being committed a man in the crowd made a remark to the effect stated in the Question. The fact that prosecutions have been instituted in this and similar cases seems to supply a sufficient answer to the latter part of the Question.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that the feeling that the Government is in sympathy with these cattle raiding operations is rapidly growing?

MR. BIRRELL: I am not aware of anything of the kind.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Allow me to inform the right hon. Gentleman that it is the case.

The Government and Grazing Farm Disputes—Mr. Fagan's Speech.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a speech of Mr. James Fagan, a leading local Nationalist, delivered at Carrick-on-Shannon, in which he said that unless his hearers were prepared to boycott the holders of grass farms there was no use passing resolutions, and that they had the sympathy of the English Government on their side, and ended by stating that he knew that the Chief Secretary was heart and soul with them in the movement to get rid of the graziers; and whether he will take steps, either by steps in this House, or by protecting graziers, or by prohibiting the Estates Commissioners from selling boycotted estates to the tenants, to remove this widely prevalent idea.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that Mr. Fagan is reported by a local newspaper to have used language to the effect stated in the Question, but the police have no evidence that such language was used. As regards the latter part of the Question, it will be sufficient to say that prosecutions have been instituted in all cases in which there was sufficient evidence, and a number of prosecutions are are now pending. I have repeatedly stated that full protection is being afforded to graziers in the exercise of their legal rights. The position of the Estates Commissioners in the matter is stated in my reply to a previous Question to which I have already called the hon. Member's notice.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 799-800.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG asked when the state of affairs would be arrived at which would be of sufficient seriousness to justify the right hon. Gentleman in rescinding the order with reference to the Estates Commissioners.

Mr. BIRRELL: I must undertake the responsibility of that matter myself.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a statement made from the Bench by a justice of the peace at Athenry, in a case in which certain persons were charged with intimidation and violence with regard to grazing farms, in which he said that the Chief Secretary for Ireland had told them to agitate for the grass lands, and asked if he was expected to condemn men for what the Chief Secretary had told them to do; and what steps he proposes to take with reference to this magistrate.

Mr. BIRRELL: I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the similar Question put by the noble Lord the Member for the Chorley Division on Thursday last.†

Irish Exports and Imports.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when the statistics of Irish imports and exports for 1905 will be circulated as a Parliamentary Paper.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Department of Agriculture had expected that the Report on Irish imports and exports for 1905 would be ready by now, but owing to additional work involved in the preparation of the Report, its completion has been delayed. The Department hope to have the Report completed in the course of a few weeks, but cannot name a precise date.

Congestion in Ireland.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the Report of the Commission presided over by Lord Dudley to inquire into the question of congestion in Ireland will be issued; and whether it is the intention of the Government to promote legislation on the lines of the Irish Land Bill at present before the House.

Mr. BIRRELL: I understand that the Report of the Royal Commission on Congestion in Ireland may confidently be expected towards the close of the present year. The hon. Member will have learnt from the Prime Minister's recent statement that it is the intention of the Government to introduce this session, and as soon as possible, a Bill dealing with the question of the evicted tenants. It is obvious that the Government cannot undertake to introduce during the present session a measure for the amendment of Irish land legislation generally; but after the Government have had the advantage of studying the Report of Lord Dudley's Commission it is intended to introduce a Bill amending the existing laws.

Edenderry School Teachers' Residence.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the teachers' residence connected with Edenderry National School, Portadown, county Armagh, was built from public funds; do the Commissioners of National Education pay part of the interest on the money borrowed; is the house at present let at a profit; and, if so, to whom does the profit go.

Mr. BIRRELL: A portion of the cost of building the teachers' residence in question was provided by means of a loan from the State, the annual charge for the repayment of which has been regularly met. So long as the house was exclusively occupied as a teachers' residence the Commissioners of National Education contributed, in accordance with their regulations, a moiety of the annual charge in repayment of the loan. Since February, 1903, the house has not been occupied exclusively as a teachers' residence, and the Commissioners have therefore withheld their contribution. The Commissioners have no knowledge as to the present occupancy of the house, but the manager has informed them that the recently appointed teacher is at liberty to occupy it. Until it is so occupied, the Commissioners will not renew their contribution.

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† See pp. 93-4.

MR. SLOAN asked the right hon. Gentleman how he could account for the fact that the Commissioners had no knowledge of who occupied the teachers' house.

MR. BIRRELL: I cannot account for the ignorance of the Commissioners.

MR. SLOAN asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would make inquiries.

MR. BIRRELL said he would do so. The Commissioners said that although they did not know who the present occupier was they were informed that the recently appointed teacher was at liberty to occupy.

MR. SLOAN wished to know how this house was occupied by a person whom the authorities knew nothing about.

MR. BIRRELL again promised to make inquiries.

Holywood Urban District Council Surcharges.

MR. J. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to certain surcharges, amounting to over £380, which have been made by the Local Government Board's auditor against certain members of the Holywood, county Down, Urban District Council; and whether, in view of the fact that the surcharges being made has given rise to recrimination amongst the councillors and the ratepayers concerned, he will order an independent inquiry into all the circumstances connected with these surcharges.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have not yet received a report of the surcharges referred to in the Question. Any district councillors or ratepayers who may be aggrieved by the auditor's decision can appeal against the surcharges to the Court of King's Bench, and thus secure a review of the decision by an independent tribunal.

College of Science, South Kensington.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can state the names of those appointed by the Crown to the governing body of the new College of Science at South Kensington.

MR. ASQUITH: My right hon. friend hopes to be in a position to give the names next week.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can now say when the House may expect the Second Reading stage of the Education (Scotland) Bill.

MR. ASQUITH: I am afraid I am not in a position to name a date for the Second Reading of this Bill.

Licensing Bill.

*SIR J. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the desirability of introducing the Licensing Bill before the end of this session, with a view to its consideration during the Autumn.

MR. ASQUITH: The Answer is in the negative.

*SIR J. RANDLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman suggest to the Prime Minister the advisability of allowing conventions of friends of temperance to consider the Bill and perhaps in this way save Parliamentary time next session by preventing the introduction next year of an abortive measure?

[No Answer was returned.]

Pacific Islanders' Protection Act.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he proposes to introduce this session a Bill to amend the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act.

MR. ASQUITH: The Bill will be introduced shortly, but the precise date cannot yet be fixed.

Women on Scottish Boards.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that there is great disappointment in Scotland that the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill does not apply to Scotland, where for many years women have worked on school boards and parish councils; and whether he can see his way to remedy this defect during the passage of the Bill in another place or in this House.

MR. ASQUITH: The Scottish law covering this subject is somewhat different from the English law and, therefore, it has been necessary to prepare a separate though generally similar Bill for the case of Scotland. That Bill is ready and will shortly be introduced into the House of Lords.

Government Contracts and Trade Unionists.

MR. CLYNES: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether firms which refuse to employ men because of their membership in a trade union, and which are engaged on Government contract work, are acting consistently with the terms on which Government contracts are made and Government Departments administered; and whether firms which exclude workmen for the exercise of a legal right will be excluded in respect to future Government contracts.

MR. ASQUITH: So far as I am aware, Government contracts do not contain any stipulation with regard to the subject of the Question. The matter seems to me to be one which might with advantage be considered by the Departmental Committee on Government contracts.

Transvaal Loan Bill.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the Bill to sanction the Transvaal Loan will be introduced.

MR. ASQUITH: I cannot yet name a date. The Bill would have to be preceded by a Financial Resolution, and I imagine that it would not be introduced until the Transvaal legislature had passed its own measure on the subject.

Public Accounts Committee Report.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can inform the House upon what date the promised debate on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee will be taken.

MR. ASQUITH: No Sir, I cannot yet fix a date.

LAND VALUES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was aware that the Land Values (Scotland) Bill had not yet been printed, and whether he could give any precedent for a Government Bill of great importance read a first time, and the order for it being printed being given, remaining unprinted for more than three weeks.

MR. ASQUITH: I am not able at a moment's notice to give any precedents. The Bill will, I believe, be circulated immediately.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I ask you, Sir, whether it is not a very unusual and very inconvenient practice that an important Government Bill should be read a first time and should remain so long unprinted?

*MR. SPEAKER: It is not a matter over which I have any control. It is undesirable that the delay should be unreasonably prolonged. The important matter seems to me to be that there should be a sufficient interval after the Bill is circulated and before the Second Reading.

BUTTER AND MARGARINE BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee B.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 179.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 179.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 223.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Munro Ferguson; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Ashton.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Health Bill): Mr. Ellis Griffith; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Health Bill): Dr. Cooper.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added the following Member to Standing Committee A (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill: Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Member (in respect of the Municipal Elections Bill): Mr. Middlemore.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

Mr. Brodie, Mr. Hills, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Walters nominated Members of the Select Committee on the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 13:—

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) moved to amend subsection (1) in order to provide that "every man of the Territorial Force shall on enlistment undergo a preliminary period of continuous training of not less than two months in the case of the infantry and of three months in the cases of the cavalry and field artillery." He said these were far-reaching proposals, and the attitude of the Secretary of State for War towards them would be a test of the sincerity of his proposals for making the Auxiliary Army an effective fighting force. There could be little doubt that the Territorial Army under this Bill would be in almost all essentials unfit for the purposes of war. The object of the Amendment was to secure that the second line should be so trained that it could be made fit to fight within a reasonable period in the event of war. To that end he proposed that every recruit upon enlistment should have at least an elementary military training. Unless that preliminary training were given, the Territorial Army would not be able to take full advantage of the period of annual training, which should be devoted to tactical and practical field exercises. If this period of preliminary training was exacted, the Territorial Force, even if it was not an efficient fighting machine, would be a potential force requiring only an annual polish to make it more efficient, and, in any event, it would be a valuable reservoir of men trained to a certain extent upon which the country could draw in case of emergency. Another advantage of the preliminary training would be the removal of an uncertain liability, and the substitution for it of an immediate liability which it would be much easier for the recruit to accept. Uncertainty as to the future was a source of danger. It was disliked by the employers, and commanding officers whom he had consulted were unanimous in the opinion that the recruit when he enlisted ought to understand he would have to undergo a certain period of training. In the Swiss Territorial Army the period of the soldier's training had been altered in the direction of lengthening the preliminary training, and diminishing the length of the annual training. That plan was more convenient for the population, and enabled them to get over the first serious liability and reduce the drain upon their time in subsequent years. In Switzerland sixty-five days training was the minimum necessary for infantry, ninety days for cavalry, and seventy-five days for artillery. But with seventy-five days training the Swiss field artillery were admitted by competent observers to be not as efficient as they should be. The right hon. Gentleman had declared that we should have good artillery, and that nothing short of the best would do. In the course of a discussion at the Royal United Institution the right hon. Gentleman said the Swiss had an organised force of all arms containing artillery of which they were not ashamed. They had done that by a preliminary period of training which they thought was inadequate. The right hon. Gentleman was proposing only fifteen days annual training, with a vague and indefinite period of preliminary training. Would the right hon. Gentleman tell the House what period of preliminary training he proposed to give? Upon what experience did he base the length of the preliminary training which he proposed to give? The only example in this country was the Lancashire Field Artillery. But they had, in addition to twenty-eight days preliminary training, fifty-six days training every year, and 33 per cent. of their strength were Regulars. Even with those advantages he thought they maintained the minimum of efficiency which would justify the right hon. Gentleman in establishing any system of Volunteer Field Artillery for the Territorial Army. If the Amendment were accepted, they would have to face a probable reduction of the number of the Territorial Army as contemplated by the right hon. Gentleman. His reply to that was, he should face the consequences with absolute equanimity, because a small force comparatively efficient was worth more than an untrained mob, however numerous. Personally he had never had any idea what the Secretary for War wanted with this mysterious number of 300,000 men. He might have some vast plan, but he rather doubted it. He took it that the right hon. Gentleman mentioned a round number which was to cover all branches after he had finished his scheme, although if these changes were to be carried out, his round number would, he thought, be considerably decreased. In any event whether or not there would be a certain reduction in the strength of the paper force which was called the Territorial Army was comparatively unimportant. Whatever the result in that direction something of the kind proposed in the Amendment was absolutely essential if the Territorial Army was to have any fighting value at all, and even if it was to have any value as a reservoir from which the country could draw for the purpose of reinforcing the Regular Army in time of war. He did not wish to dogmatise as to the amount of preliminary training to be given. He had put forward the figures in his Amendment for the purpose of argument. Possibly the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell the Committee what preliminary training he proposed to give. If so, he would gladly welcome the announcement and withdraw the Amendment. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to enlighten them on that point.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 32, to leave out all the words after 'shall,' to the end of line 4 on page 12, and insert the words, 'on enlistment, undergo a preliminary period of continuous training of not less than two months in the case of the infantry and of three months in the cases of the cavalry and field artillery.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Lee.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said the hon. Gentleman had stated his criticism to the clause as it stood in a very moderate way. It was without precedent to put into an Act the purpose of which was to confer military powers provisions limiting the discretion of the authorities as to the standard of training. The standard of training varied very much from generation to generation, and was never embodied in detail in these Acts. The hon. and gallant Gentleman said, truly enough, that he had put down two months and three months as a basis of criticism and as a standard which he thought would be a proper standard. It must be remembered, first of all, that this was a force primarily for home defence, and that it consisted of people who were giving their services on a purely voluntary basis. The Amendment implied that no cavalry force was worth anything unless it had had a training of three months' continuous work. Would the right hon. Member for Dover endorse that? A great deal had been heard lately of what an efficient force the Yeomanry was, and yet by this Amendment it would appear the Yeomanry were no good, because they had not had three months' continuous recruit-training. The principle of a Volunteer army was to get what training they could from the men consistent with their following their ordinary avocations. The class of young men whom he hoped to get in the Territorial Army would not be able to give three months for continuous training, and if he insisted upon three months' continuous training it would cut down the force to one-tenth. It was not young men who were unemployed that he was aiming at. He quite agreed with the hon. Member that if they could get the standard asked for in the Amendment they would get better-trained soldiers; but a man who could afford to give three or six months to training had better become a professional soldier. In the Territorial Force the Government asked the manhood of the nation to come forward for home defence and to give as much time to training as the men could spare. The amount of training must be sufficient to make the men useful for the purpose the Government had in view. The question of training was being worked out in great detail just now by the General Staff, and the hon. Member might rely upon it that the War Office would get as much training as they could from these men of the Territorial Army. They would have to attend a certain number of drills, but the authorities had never yet been able to get continuous training for such a long period as that now suggested from Volunteers. It was no use talking of the Territorial Force as if it were to have a large regular training and full preparation for war in time of peace. Its very purpose was that, while there was a large expeditionary force at home, these people might be embodied, and as much time as possible would be devoted to putting them through the mill. The continuous training he contemplated should not be less than six months before they took the field. The Government hoped to have a large part of the expeditionary force at home and available in the meantime. The Government relied upon this embodying training, which was to commence on general mobilisation, in order to make the training as a whole satisfactory. But the recruit training would certainly be better than the Volunteers got at the present time. The artillery training would be as good as the War Office could make it. The hon. Member, who was a distinguished artillery soldier, held strong views on the subject of training Volunteer artillery. But educated men, the skilled artisans whom they hoped to get, would learn more quickly than the ordinary recruit in the Regular artillery. He had always thought, and he had said before, that about the matter of artillery training there was a vast amount of misapprehension in the House. A skilled man would learn in a far shorter time than the unskilled man. It was no use taking as a standard the time required for training Regular soldiers.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said he had not brought up the question of the Regular Artillery. He gave the only analogy there was to Volunteer Artillery, the Lancashire Field Artillery, which consisted of the educated men to whom the right hon. Gentleman referred.

MR. HALDANE said that was Militia artillery, a very different class. The Honourable Artillery Company gave an example of a force which it was well worth while trying to reproduce. He was quite aware that the artillery problem was the most difficult, and it would probably require a long time before they could produce anything of a good standard, but he relied much on this, that his advisors and those with whom he was dealing in connection with Volunteer artillery were of opinion that they could produce something well worth having in this force. As, therefore, they intended to have Volunteer artillery in the force, they would be acting very foolishly if they fixed conditions which would shut out the class of men on whom they relied most. That was why it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that the reply of the right hon. Gentleman showed the inconvenience of discussing the Bill in its present shape. It might be, as the right hon. Gentleman told them, that certain reasons of convenience prescribed a limitation with regard to training for the purposes of the Bill, but the real question they had to consider was whether there was any evidence in the history of the world that this amount of training would suffice to enable men so trained to be successful in war. To that question, one of the most material in the Bill, the right hon. Gentleman had not addressed himself. It was obvious that some period of training must be necessary to make a soldier efficient for war, whether five years or five days, but from start to finish there was no indication in the Bill what that period of training was to be. They were asked to pledge the country to a great deal more than was in the Bill. Not only were they to be pledged to all the expenditure disclosed, and the further expenditure which would be disclosed in connection with the Territorial Army, but they were tacitly pledging the country to something much more important, to putting these men in the place of a Regular Army. The right hon. Gentleman had said that there was no intention of putting Volunteer artillery in the place of Regular artillery. Let them judge. During the last two years the establishment of Royal Artillery alone had gone down by over 4,000 men. There was to be a further reduction of the Royal Artillery, and the establishment of Infantry had in the last two years decreased by 13,000 men, and further decreases were promised. More important still was the decrease in the strength which was going on at the present moment. The establishment even now, in the Army estimate for this year, did not correspond to the strength.

Mr. HALDANE: That is because of your own three-year system.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that surely strengthened his point.

Mr. HALDANE: No.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked if the right hon. Gentleman would give any guarantee that he would make good any reduction below the establishment? The right hon. Gentleman, in answer to the question whether he intended to replace the fall below the establishment which was now taking place, said no. They were undoubtedly diminishing the Regular Army, and also the quasi-Regulars, the Militia, and putting in their stead something else. Was it not a fair thing, then, for his hon. friend to ask what were the qualifications for war of the men that were being put in the place of the men got rid of? The right hon. Gentleman had cited the opinions of his professional advisers as to the question of Volunteer artillery. Those opinions were quite new, at any rate, and not only that, but they were diametrically opposed in essence and word to the opinions that had been expressed to himself by the soldiers by whom he had had the honour to be advised. There was this, too, in favour of the earlier opinion, that it was in conformity with the universal practice of every nation in the world. He could not find that Volunteer artillery had played any great part in war, as the hon. and gallant Member for Abercomby had said. The world's campaigns showed that the training of the artillery had been the pre-eminent consideration which had tended towards success in the battlefield. The Swiss Artillery had been cited. There was a large amount of military opinion that even the Swiss artillery was far below the standard that ought to be maintained by them and below that of any other European Continental country, yet their training was incomparably ahead of anything the Government were proposing to give our own troops. The right hon. Gentleman ought to tell them fairly and squarely before the debate closed what he proposed to give in the way of training. It was not a matter of detail. It was a matter of primary importance. Could the right hon. Gentleman tell the Committee what was the minimum training that was to be given to these troops at an expense of £3,000,000? The right hon. Gentleman had told them quite seriously that his advisers relied entirely on the six months training to be given on the outbreak of war. That proposal required a more elaborate defence than it had received. He did not deny the right hon. Gentleman the gift of imagination, but they must consider, too, whether they were providing a force which would render us independent of the men with this training, or want of training. Who had told the right hon. Gentleman that the training would be adequate for the tremendous ordeal of battle? Who were his advisers in the matter? Were the best soldiers in Europe and Asia wrong in regard to training? The Swiss infantry course was an annual course, and it had been lately increased—["No"]—he was perfectly right, but whether it had or had not been increased, it was vastly in excess of anything provided for the Territorial Army. He could only see one explanation of the refusal of the right hon. Gentleman to tell the Committee what he really proposed. The right hon. Gentleman was in a dilemma. He had stated the minimum of what he imagined would be agreeable to the persons who were to be brought into training, but who were not to be trained in preparation for war. If the latter training were insisted on the right hon. Gentleman would lose a large number of recruits whom he expected to obtain. He invited the right hon. Gentleman to be more frank and to tell the Committee what it was he really proposed. The Committee should remember also that it was not dealing merely with the words of the clause, but with the state of things that was to exist in the future, when the country would have to rely more than ever before on the new soldiers to be created under the Bill. They were incurring an immense responsibility in replacing the present force by a class of troops who were to receive a training which was inadequate in the opinion of every military authority in the world, and for whose organisation on the lines suggested there was no military precedent in any other country in the world.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his reappearance in the debates, and submitted a correction of his statement with regard to the Swiss army. The Swiss law had not yet been made operative, and might not become so, because it was the subject of a *referendum*, and it might not be carried. That fact showed that the Swiss were not of one mind as to the necessity of increasing the short training their troops now had. It was suggested by hon. Members opposite that the Secretary for War was proposing to create an army with a wholly inadequate period of training, the suggestion being that the training should extend over a period of two or three months. In his opinion, hon. Members seemed to be using the arguments not only of the martinet, but of the pedagogue. It seemed to be forgotten that in a voluntary army the more training given did not mean that the more efficient the soldier became, because they did not get the same men. None but the idle rich, the inefficient, or the occupants of the casual wards could possibly spare two or three months to absent themselves from their regular employment to serve in the Army on a voluntary basis under such a system.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said the hon. and gallant Gentleman did not do his argument justice. He was not suggesting a training of two or three months, but a longer preliminary training, and he had pointed out that the Swiss were increasing their preliminary training in order to decrease the subsequent training.

MAJOR SEELY said he was dealing with the hon. and gallant Gentleman's argument that they must have a longer period than three months training. Those who talked idly of France and Germany did not recognise that they did not get the same man, and that if they had this longer training they could not get anyone except the man who was out of a job to undertake the position. He agreed that it was desirable that the recruit should have a longer period of training than the man who had been trained; but, after all, the man who succeeded in peace was the man who succeeded in war. The same qualities that made for success in peace made for success in war, and the country must fight its battles with the best of its population if it meant to win. They could not, therefore, get men to give up long periods of time for training, for if they did they would be elbowed out of their situations by other men who were not serving; and, therefore, in considering the other armies of the world hon. Members must never forget the salient feature which nullified the conclusions they were endeavouring to draw. We were an insular Power, and hon. Members must admit that 160,000 men could cope with any kind of raid. When the moment of danger came our Territoral Army could be mobilised, and by the time the force of 160,000 men left our shores the Army would have had more training than the Swiss Army, which was admittedly efficient. The teaching of the "Blue Water" doctrine meant in such an event that we should have more time in which to train that part of the Army which was not to be sent to the seat of war across the sea. Again, there was the argument of the Empire, which seemed to be forgotten by hon. Members. What about the Colonial artillery? If it was true that no Army was worth creating or maintaining unless it was trained for a period of years, what became of our co-operation with the Colonists? In the South African war it was proved that long preparation in organisation was necessary, but that long preparation and training for the individual became less and less necessary as scientific weapons increased in accuracy. In the days of Rome, where the soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder, it might have been necessary to train for a prolonged period, but nowadays the soldier had first to be endowed with courage, common sense, and confidence in his leader. It was the character of the soldier far more than his training that came uppermost in war. That fact had been proved in every recent war, and most of all in the Russo-Japanese war. Japanese troops with short training were opposed to Russian troops who had enjoyed a prolonged period of training. To measure the value of an army, therefore, by the number of days training which the soldier had received was the most futile method of gauging its strength. Hon. Members should not forget the Colonial aspect of the problem, for it was likely that the Colonists would be inclined to resent the theory that the help they would bring to the Imperial Power would be nugatory. He admitted that the recruit's training should be for a longer period than in the case of the trained man. Ours was the only Army in the world in which trained men were required to train as long in the later years of their service as in the earlier. While he disagreed as to the value of troops raised on this basis, he thought that a longer period of training for recruits would be advisable.

*Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) said that while he agreed with much that had been said by the mover of the Amendment, still he agreed with what had been said with regard to the length of training. The matter of training was of some importance. He believed that if so long a period of training were insisted on the class which now enlisted in the Yeomanry would be lost, which in his opinion would be a great misfortune to the country. Certainly the class of men who joined the Yeomanry in the country districts would

not be drawn into the net. Such men might gamble on the necessity of a possible six months mobilisation, but he did not think they would accept the responsibility for the long training suggested. He, however, quite realised the value of it, and so far as he personally was concerned, he would vote for compulsion and a long training. But he rose particularly to urge the Secretary of State to insure as far as possible that when this Order in Council was drafted, there should be as little rigidity in its provision as possible. He was not sure that the authorities at the War Office even now realised how different were the conditions in different Yeomanry regiments, and even in different squadrons of the same regiment. At the present time, as the right hon. Gentleman was aware, the two days of squadron training were sometimes performed separately from the permanent duty. That was no doubt of great convenience to those regiments which drew their recruits from towns and populous places where the squadron districts were comparatively small, but if the right hon. Gentleman had had experience of three districts with which he was connected, which divided between them all the seaboard of Devon and Cornwall, he would see how difficult it would be to gather men together to perform squadron training at other times of the year than that at which they performed their permanent duty. He therefore hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see that latitude was given to such squadrons as those to perform their squadron and permanent training at a time convenient to themselves. He would be sorry to see the time for permanent training curtailed, unless the recruits came up for a longer period of training for the first year.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said he thought the Committee were indebted to the hon. Member for raising this point, but he thought the Secretary of State was more than usually vague in his reply. He had told the Committee that this was a Bill of detail, yet when any one of these points were put to him, he and his advisers were silent. Owing to the Bill having to be passed under the closure rule it was impossible to discuss all the important points, therefore he thought the Secretary of

State should give some indication of the Government's view. He quite agreed that it would be better to have a scale suited to the various districts, but in that regard the right hon. Gentleman had raised the question of a lengthened training and had not given the Committee any indication whether it was essential to have in this Territorial Force a long training in the first year with shortening intervals of training in subsequent years, or whether it should be on the present Militia basis. These were questions which everyone in the country was desirous of having answered. They wished to know the amount of pay, the fines a man would have to pay if he desired to contract out of his engagement, and what were to be the terms of service for infantry and artillery. Beyond the broad outlines of the general scheme nothing had been vouchsafed to the Committee. He could not follow the reasoning of the hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division that with modern weapons of precision the men required less training. His experience had been that with modern and efficient weapons they were bound to give the men a longer training to familiarise themselves with them. If the right hon. Gentleman was going to adopt the hon. and gallant Member's policy and conclusions the Committee ought to know, and it was necessary for the right hon. Gentleman to assure the Committee that he intended to give the recruits of the whole of the Army a proper period of training during the first year, and that after that they would have sufficient training every year to keep them up to the mark. The right hon. Gentleman said these men were to be trained for home defence, but he also expressed the pious hope that on the outbreak of war a certain proportion of them would volunteer for active service. This clause touched the very root of the question. Was the right hon. Gentleman going to train the Territorial Force for service at home or abroad? It was quite a different matter training local artillery, say, on the coast of Devon or Cornwall or elsewhere on our coasts, from training them to take a place in war by the side of the Regular troops in some other part of the world. They had had great difficulty in eliciting from the right hon. Gentleman that he hoped that men would volunteer for active service abroad. On a former occasion he had said that he hoped men would volunteer by brigades or by divisions, but that was a false hope, and he was afraid that the right hon. Gentleman knew it. With winter training and summer training he could only expect to get some fragments from different parts of the country and not the whole of one division or brigade from one county association. And how did the right hon. Gentleman intend to combine the forces without destroying the cohesion of the corps, or whatever he liked to call it? The question of training in regard to that particular point, undoubtedly ought to be made clear to the Committee. Had the War Office in their mind's eye that the present Militia should be asked to join on the understanding that the service would be much the same as hitherto, which had been found satisfactory to that force? Would Volunteers be asked to do much the same as they had done in the past? And the Yeomanry, why were they to be revolutionised? It would shorten the debates if the Secretary for War would state how far the War Office had arrived at an approximate idea of what was intended under this scheme.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said the right hon. Gentleman had, so far, had only one supporter for his policy of silence on this very vital question. The preliminary training of the Home Army was perhaps one of the most important matters contained in the right hon. Gentleman's scheme. What did he say about it in the Bill? He said that the question of whether there was to be training at all as distinguished from drill was to be a matter to be decided, aye or no, by an Order in Council, and so far as drills were concerned it was to be prescribed at some future time. But he attached more importance to continuous training than to intermittent drill, and as to that there was not one word in the Bill, and when the right hon. Gentleman replied to the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for the Abercromby Division, and to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, they were as much in the dark as when they read the Bill, and they wondered what the intentions of the Government were. They asked for something more explicit than had yet been vouchsafed to them. If this preliminary training was to be longer than the annual training, how long would it be? That was a riddle very hard to answer by those who had studied the Bill, because the annual training was to be not less than eight days and not more than fifteen, though it might be extended to thirty days or reduced to nothing at all. A preliminary training which was to be longer than a figure with so many variations in it did not give them anything like the assurance which they required, and which he thought they must press for before the debate came to a conclusion. The hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for the Abercromby Division believed that training was now of far less importance than it was in the past.

MAJOR SEELY: By comparison with the past.

MR. WYNDHAM said he traversed altogether the hon. and gallant Gentleman's statement that with better weapons less training was required. If the hon. and gallant Gentleman said less drill in the barrack-yard, less manual exercise and less goose step, he agreed with him, but when he said less training was required he differed from him, and he thought everybody else would differ from him. The better the weapon, the longer the range, and the flatter the trajectory, the more extended would have to be the formation, and it was by training only that the men could learn to follow the group leader, the group leader the captain, and the captain the indications given by signal whispered along the extended line.

MAJOR SEELY: The Canadians managed to do it at Paardeberg.

MR. WYNDHAM said that was an isolated instance, and Lord Bacon said that argument from single instances was a puerile affair. He was not at Paardeberg, but he had no doubt the Canadians did uncommonly well there. He did not argue the matter on single instances. At Waterloo, where there was a narrow front, the need of drill was enormous, because of the narrow compass in which the regiments could be deployed. The need for training in order to move troops over an extended line was very great, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would keep in mind the necessity for continuous training and believe that it was more important, especially in the case of the Auxiliary Forces, than a number of sentry drills. He might state that by adding three extra days to the nineteen days annual training, in some regiments results were obtained proportionately far better than could be expected from merely adding three days. He did not think it lay with the hon. Member to criticise the proposal of his hon. friend unless he took into account the fact that it created a new problem for which some solution would have to be found, and for which none was found in the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman, or in the speeches he had made. The Secretary for War had created a great gap between the regular Army, which was to send out an expeditionary force, and the Territorial Force, which was not to receive adequate training at all until war broke out. There was the expeditionary force of 160,000 men, and there was nothing else until they came to the Territorial Army, which was to be drilled, artillery, cavalry, and infantry, for eight or fifteen days. That gap was created by the Bill, which abolished the Militia and brought the Yeomanry down to the Volunteer basis. Before this measure was introduced the Yeomanry were trained from sixteen to nineteen days, and now it was proposed to reduce it to fifteen days. The Government had reduced their pay and cut off a large class of men who were teachable, and therefore it did not lie with the right hon. Gentleman to criticise the attempt they were making to secure something behind the first line trained and fit to take the field. By insisting on uniformity, by getting rid of the Militia, and treating the Yeomanry and Volunteers as one, the right hon. Gentleman would leave them with no support for their first line. That was what the right hon. Gentleman called organising in two lines instead of three. The Opposition held that it was exposing the country to great peril, and that public safety demanded that adequate training should be given in the first year to the men who entered the Territorial Force.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he was not a supporter of the Bill, but he certainly supported it against this Amendment. He did not complain of the action of the Opposition on this question, because it was impossible to expect them to shut out from the debate the grounds on which they supported the Amendment. He agreed in the main with what his hon. and gallant friend the Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool had said so far as the infantry of the Territorial Army was concerned, but not in regard to the cavalry. In this discussion "the gap" had played a great part, and he agreed largely with what had been said upon that subject. In his opinion, by this new scheme they were tending to get rid of the Volunteer and Yeomanry recruit of the kind they had known in the past, and they were now classing as Regulars a number of men who were not Regulars at all. He regretted that naval opinion had not been represented at all in a debate which had bristled with naval heresies. The Secretary of State played into his assailants' hands by speaking of this force over and over again as one intended for home defence. That it was not, and it was a mere sham to pretend that it was. A portion of it, which was to be more highly organised, was intended to garrison certain posts. A portion was to be organised as coast defence troops to repel small landings, but the force rested upon the acceptance of the naval view that serious invasion of this country was impossible so long as we held command of the sea. All the earlier speeches of the Secretary of State pointed to the view held by the Elgin Commission and the Esher Committee, that this force was intended to be one on which we could draw for the support of the fighting force across the sea. His hon. and gallant friend required this force not for home defence, but for providing a fighting Army. Where he agreed absolutely with the Secretary of State in opposing this Amendment was where he told them that it was his wish to get from the people of this country various forms of service suitable to various classes of the population. He did not find that elasticity in the Bill, however; he found undue rigidity. They found this complaint expressed at the Colonial Conference, when Mr. Deakin said—

> "In Australia we have been subject to mockery, because we have followed closely the methods of the Imperial force. As fast as they Germanised we Germanised."

The tendency was more and more towards stereotyping the present civilian force into one which was a sort of sham Regular force called a Territorial Army instead of Volunteers. By this plan the Secretary of State for War was running the risk of making "the gap" more obvious than it was before, and he was placing his Territorial Army upon an inferior German basis instead of getting for the Volunteers the old and best class of recruits, and keeping that military spirit of the civil population which was the real source upon which we should draw in war. That was the danger which he felt. They ought to fight against uniformity of training for different portions of the forces. Both the Bill and the Amendment were open to criticism upon that ground. As regarded the cavalry, were they not in danger of treating the yeoman---who was an excellent recruit, as good in his way as they could get—in this Bill and under this Amendment as if the question between a week's training and fifteen or eighteen days training made all the difference whether they had got a cavalry soldier or not? Let them not substitute Yeomanry for cavalry for a large portion of the duties of cavalry in the field. The cavalry was a costly force, and there was a great danger that the cavalry would be cut down and the Yeomanry employed. They could not afford to rely upon leaving the duties of cavalry in the field to men who only received the Yeomanry training. They wanted to keep the Yeomanry recruit; he was a valuable asset; but he was not a trained cavalry soldier. He (Sir Charles Dilke) felt that it was his duty to take every opportunity of insisting that they needed Regular Cavalry and Regular Mounted Infantry in battalions, as recommended by the Elgin Commission, and they needed the Yeomanry behind them to provide the men when there was pressure in time of war. He himself had been fighting against the rigidity of the provisions of the Bill. If they adopted uniform and inelastic provisions they would lose valuable material by losing the present class of recruits for the Volunteers. They must shape the Bill, as regarded the terms of service, in such a way that it would give them the present class of recruits. He opposed the Amendment because it was inelastic, and not because he was a supporter of the Bill, which was open to the same objection.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said he was in agreement with a great deal of what the right hon. Baronet had said. There was no truth more obvious, but more often forgotten and more necessary to repeat, than the truth that there was an immense variety in the degrees of training and preparation which they had to give to different parts of the Army. Some part of the *matériel* of the Army required immense preparation, other parts could be improvised. Some part of the *personnel* of the Army required an immense amount of training, but some part of it could be employed under proper organisation, in conjunction with the highly trained part of the force, with a relatively insignificant period of work. On the Third Reading it would be most important and proper that the House should make a survey of what the military force would be under the Bill, based on the plan that would then be elaborated, and compare it with the military force at our disposal at the present time, or as it might be made on the basis of the existing organisation. It would not be desirable to ask the Committee to divide on this Amendment, and his hon. and gallant friend desired to ask leave to withdraw it. But he thought the Secretary of State for War should have elaborated a little more such views as he might have, even provisionally, as to the amount of training which he could give to the Territorial Army.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said he had put down the Amendment for the purpose of discussion. He was sorry that the Secretary of State for War had not been able to make a definite statement. Meantime, as the discussion had served its purpose, he asked leave to withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) moved to omit Subsection (*a*), which required that every man of the Territorial Force should—

> "if so provided by Order in Council, be trained at such places within the United Kingdom, at such times, and for such periods, not exceeding in the whole the number of days specified by the Order in Council, as may be prescribed, and may for that purpose be called out once or oftener."

He said that the previous Amendment aimed at an ideal which, if it could be reached, would be most desirable, but it would undoubtedly require some little compulsion which the present Government was not prepared to accede to. The Amendment which he now moved went rather to the other extreme. It left out all questions of ideal training, and came down to the practical details of the present situation. The previous night he had referred to a point which the rank and file of the present Volunteers were afraid of. He now wished to point out another feature of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme which, unless explained, was likely not only to deter the present Volunteers from remaining on as soldiers in the Territorial Army, but to deter from joining that army recruits of the class who now joined the Volunteers. The men in the Volunteer Force were afraid of the proposal contained in the subsection which he proposed to omit. They said, "We will give up a week or a fortnight, either part or the whole of our annual holidays, in annual training, but it is quite impossible for us, not from unwillingness, but from the conditions of our employment, to come out twice a year in the first year of service, once for recruit training, and subsequently for annual training." He thought the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean would agree with him that it was desirable, if they could, to keep the present class of recruits they got for the Volunteers. The class of recruits who now entered the Militia would, if the right hon. Gentleman's scheme succeeded, go into the nucleus third battalions. They would not, he took it, go into the Territorial Army at all. The whole of the Territorial Force would be drawn from the classes of recruits who now supplied the Yeomanry and the Volunteers. They were essentially a class of men who were in permanent civil employment. They were not men who were able to leave their work for a long period at a time. They were willing to go out for training during their annual holidays, but they could not do more than that. His object in moving the Amendment was to get an assurance from the right hon. Gentleman, and if possible to get it embodied in the Bill, that there would not be a liability on the recruits joining the Territorial Army to be called out more than once for training in any one year. At present recruits were trained at their own homes in the evenings, after their day's work was done, and it was impossible to adopt any other system without losing a most desirable class of men. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider this matter as a serious one, and that if he could not accept the Amendment he would make some observations which would enable the present class of recruits to join the Territorial Army without fear of having in the first year to be called out for recruit drill and also for training in camp. He thought they might increase the attendances required in a man's first and second year of service, but, whatever steps of that kind were taken, if they were without compulsion to get the force drawn from the present Volunteer class, it was essential that they should not be called out for training more than once in any one year. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 35, to leave out from beginning to the word 'attend,' in page 12, line 2."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be let out stand part of the Clause."

MR. HALDANE said that one of the difficulties in conducting the debate was that on one Amendment they had a current of opinion which ran counter to the opinion expressed on the same point from the same quarter on a former Amendment. He had listened with great interest to the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, but it was opposed to the argument of the hon. Member who sat near him. He thought that the one hon. Gentleman went too far, while the other did not go far enough. The notion of the Government was that on this subject they should organise the system of instruction very much more than at present; that from various centres instructors should be sent out to local districts, and that the number of instructors should be increased so as to give in the most organised form the necessary troop and company training. Obviously that would be different in one district from another, according to the number of the units. What the Government was aiming at was to organise all this and to provide local centres of instruction. The Amendment of the hon. Member would practically strike out all the provisions in regard to recruit training, except those which related to the drills referred to in Subsection 2. That would be going back to the low standard which existed at the present moment. He hoped to get a higher standard than that by a system of local instruction which should be carried out under very careful supervision. Under the new organisation of the Territorial Force there would be a Major-General commanding a division. under him there would be a Brigadier-General, and under him a Brigade-Major, together with a staff who would supervise the instruction of the recruits. That was the enormous advantage of bringing in professional soldiers of high standing. With that machinery, and with that capacity for organisation, he would prefer that they should go slowly and adapt themselves to the circumstances of the recruits; and therefore he could not accept the words of the hon. Gentleman's Amendment.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he could not understand the observation of the Secretary of State for War. Was the right hon. Gentleman going to place the training of recruits in the hands of the County Associations?

MR. HALDANE: No.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that the right hon. Gentleman had stated he was going to send forth instructors in every direction like a covey of partridges.

MR. HALDANE said that the hon. and gallant Member had got County Associations on the brain. He was not then speaking of the County Associations.

The sending forth of the instructors would be done in the ordinary way.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that surely the right hon. Gentleman would leave something for the Commanding Officers to do, or the Territorial Army would come to grief. The right hon. Gentleman should leave the training in some degree in the hands of the Adjutant. Although it was perfectly true that they looked to the formation of the force into brigades and divisions, yet if this supervision of the Major-General was going to interfere with the training of the recruits the right hon. Gentleman would not do any good to the Territorial Force.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) asked what amount of preliminary training the right hon. Gentleman considered would be required to turn these recruits into competent soldiers. Could any of the right hon. Gentleman's advisers guarantee that cavalry or artillery recruits could be made into efficient soldiers under that preliminary training? Up to the present moment that assumption had not been made good. If the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman was not to be taken seriously, but only as a pious opinion, that owing to local circumstances they could only put the men under a training which would put them on the road to efficiency——

*THE CHAIRMAN said he could not see that the observations of the right hon. Gentleman were relevant to the Amendment before the Committee.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said that what he wanted to know was what the training was to be.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that that question did not arise on the Amendment.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.) said he was sure that they all welcomed the remark of the right hon. Gentleman that the number of instructors was to be increased; but it was an important matter whether these instructors were to be put under the Major-General commanding the Division, the Brigadier General, the Brigade Major, the County Associations, or the Commanding Officer of the battalion.

MR. HALDANE said that there was no intention of unduly taking power away from the Commanding Officer; but it must be remembered that the Commanding Officer of a Volunteer Corps at the present time could not always be present to see to the training of recruits.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT: What about the Adjutant?

MR. HALDANE said that what was proposed was that there should be a system of instruction for recruits under the supervision of the Divisional Commander, through the Commanding Officer of a battalion, and that system of instruction would be available for recruit training and such other training as was necessary to develop a knowledge of discipline. There would be no interference with the responsibility of the Commanding Officer.

VISCOUNT MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) inquired whether a Major-General commanding a division, or a Brigadier-General commanding a brigade, was to take the training of companies out of the hands of the Colonel commanding the battalion.

MR. HALDANE: No; the Commanding Officer will organise and supervise the training.

MR. ASHLEY said he was strongly in favour of retaining the class of men whom they had in the Militia in the old days; but if the preliminary training and the annual training were to take place in the same year there were a great many men now in the Volunteer Corps who could not possibly do it. They were usually men who had only a fortnight's holiday, and they could not, in his judgment, do both the preliminary training and the annual training. If the right hon. Gentleman assured him that under his regulations he would suit the punishment to the crime and the burden to the shoulders which had to bear it he would not further urge the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) moved an Amendment which had for its object the preventing of men being called out more frequently than was required. The clause provided that a man might be trained at such places and at such times, and for such periods, not exceeding the number of days specified by the order in council, and might be called out "once or oftener." He proposed, with a view of accomplishing his purpose, to leave out the words "or oftener." He thought it would be far better for the scheme if the recruit knew what he had to do in the first year, and whether he was to work for a week or a fortnight. As the Bill at present stood a man might be called out for Militia training once and then be called out again.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 40, to leave out the words 'or oftener.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or oftener' stand part of the clause."

MR. HALDANE said the words were put in not to create uncertainty but to make provision for the different customs of different districts. It was the custom to call out the troops oftener in some districts than in others.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, "That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said the Opposition were dissatisfied with the statement made by the Secretary for War; they wanted to know what the preliminary training of these Territorial Forces was to be, and why the right hon. Gentleman could not tell them fairly and squarely the amount of training which he and his advisers thought would turn out an efficient soldier, in order that the country might judge whether that training would be effective for that purpose, or whether it was only a training of a nature as good as they could give under the circumstances. The difference was fundamental, because the country might take a perfectly different view of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme if they recognised that under it they would have an efficient fighting force. He thoroughly recognised the difficulties in the task of the right hon. Gentleman, but it was essential that they should know whether these forces would be so trained that they would be able to reinforce the fighting line. He protested against the dangerous heresy which had been brought forward that they should not aim at a high standard of professional training, but that it was a good thing to create a sort of "go as you please" system under which discipline should be relaxed as far as possible, and there should be as little as possible of professional pressure put upon the men. That view had been indicated by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division upon more than one occasion, and he could not help feeling that the instincts of the hon. Member were distinctly in favour of considerable laxity in discipline in the army he would like to create. He, however, wanted to urge that the discipline should be adequate and sufficient training given. What did they want discipline to create? Not a very smart movement under arms or a very bold warlike movement, but, above everything, to create a feeling of reliance on their comrades throughout the ranks of the service. Each soldier must have a distinct feeling of reliance, not only upon the officer who was leading him, but on the men who were fighting right and left of him, and upon whom he had to depend in the fight. They could not get that discipline without sufficient training to create *esprit de corps* and *camaraderie*. The hon. Member for the Abercromby Division argued the question as if they had to train an Army with the view that it was to proceed from success to success, but discipline came in not when an army went from one victory to another, but in times of reverses and temporary defeat. That was when they wanted the highest qualities of discipline, and they could not get it without what he was begging for, viz., a sufficient training. He greatly doubted whether the period of training allowed under the Bill was sufficient.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) wished for some information as to the training of those portions of the

Yeomanry which were to be imported into the regular cavalry of the Army in the form of divisional cavalry. In the divisional cavalry there would not be, as far as he understood, one single regular cavalry soldier, but it would consist entirely of Yeomanry. He thought the total number of squadrons which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to favour was fourteen; but those squadrons were to be made up of individual troops from different regiments. He did not believe that such a system would work out with adequate efficiency, as he did not think it was possible to take troops from different regiments for squadron training. The Yeomanry squadrons were to be formed immediately on the declaration of war, as part of the fighting line of the Regular Army, and would not have the advantage of six months training. The Committee ought to have some information as to their training and pay.

*The CHAIRMAN said he was not quite sure whether the noble Lord in his previous remarks had been in order, but this clause had certainly nothing to do with the question of pay, and observations on that question were out of order.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT said a Volunteer must have some preliminary training, and some means must be provided. He would confine himself to asking, however, what that training was to be.

*Mr. HALDANE said he had very strongly resisted the temptation to go into any detail, and the case of the Yeomanry was just the one where he must be more cautious than he had been in the other case. Yet he would be a little rash, and although what he would state had been worked out very carefully, it might have to be revised. The special contingent Yeomanry would not belong to the Territorial Army at all. They came under Part III., and would be in the same position as the Militia would be. They would cease to have their old character and belong to the special contingent and undergo a special training of six months. Being of a superior class, the men and officers would probably have had a good deal of training in the Yeomanry regiments, and instances might be forthcoming where it might be possible to curtail the full six months training in the case of some individuals; but the general idea of the training was that it should be of six months among those who joined as the special contingent. The officers would be specially trained. The annual training would be fifteen days, and it would be undertaken in some cases with the Yeomanry regiments, though it was better that the annual training should be with the cavalry division to which the Yeomanry contingent was allotted. The force was to serve as divisional cavalry and to go along with the division to which it was allotted. This arrangement might not be always practicable, and if it was not, then the Yeomanry would take their annual training with their own regiments, or with a cavalry regiment. He could not enter into further detail now. The Bill asked for wide powers, and he would be doing a great disservice to the public interest were he to tie himself hand and foot so as not to be able to revise and improve their conclusions as time went on. He could not, therefore, commit himself to the specific propositions which he had been invited on all hands to favour. What amount of training would make an efficient soldier was raising a conundrum it was not possible to answer under the suggested system. All they could do was to get for the men the best training possible and put them in the way of becoming efficient. He quoted the authority of the distinguished military writer, Colonel Henderson, to the effect that with good officers, and a certain amount of previous training, there was no reason why unprofessional soldiers should not do excellent service in the field. The War Office had come to the conclusion that the best way to train was to bring these men as much as possible in close contact with professional soldiers of high standing. These officers ought to be the inspirers of the Commanders of the Territorial units, and therefore they proposed to bring the Commanders into closer contact with the Regular Forces, to give the force a regular organisation, and to introduce a more scientific standard of training than existed at the present time. It might be found that they dared not press the Territorial Infantry to take more than a certain amount of training. The men might not come in if they put too much strain on them. What they should do was to get the men on the way to attain that military efficiency about which Colonel Henderson had written in his book.

MR. **WYNDHAM** submitted that the right hon. Gentleman had not told the Committee, even in outline, his idea of what the preliminary training of the recruits should consist.

SIR **SAMUEL SCOTT** asked whether the Yeomanry was to be trained as cavalry or mounted Infantry.

MR. **HALDANE** said that the fourteen squadrons of Yeomanry would fulfil the function of divisional cavalry. The purpose of the War Office was to give a military organisation to the entire force, and their functions would be to act as cavalry. In the Estimate on the Table it would be seen how they were organised. The Yeomanry were not strictly under the Commander of the division; they were under a Brigadier as a cavalry force.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 271; Noes, 87. (Division List No. 211.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond, J. (Tyrone, N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fabet, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis

Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charless Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk Bg'hs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Pullar, Sir Robert
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampt'n
Waldle, George J.
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring,Capt.Hn.G.(Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Wor.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Dixon-Hartland,Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashford
Hay,Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Ed'm's
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,Arthur H. (Hants.,Fareh'm
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheffield,Sir Berkeley George D.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col. W.H. (Lancashire)

Walrond, Hon. Lionel	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. G. Stuart-	Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)	Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George	
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	Younger, George	

Clause 14:—

Sir HOWARD VINCENT, in moving to leave out the word "man" and to insert the word "unit," said the Amendment would further assist the Secretary of State for War in making his Territorial Army popular and efficient. Anything which prevented or terrified recruits from coming in, or threatened them with more training and more obligations than they could well perform, would interfere very seriously with recruiting for the force. They did not want to deceive any individual into accepting greater obligations than he could possibly undertake. After all, what they wanted was not so much that the individual man, but that the unit should be thoroughly efficient. That was the object of going into camp. The training of the individual in camp was not so great as the training of the whole unit. The Secretary of State for War might be quite sure that every reasonable pressure would be brought to bear on every individual in the battalion, and by substituting the word "unit" for the word "man" they would not hold in the face of men that species of terrorism which he thought would interfere with recruiting for the Territorial Force.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 9, to leave out the word 'man' and insert the word 'unit.'"(—*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. HALDANE said the very purpose of the clause was to prescribe what was to be the annual training of the individual man. Of course, the annual training of the units depended on that, but they could not be the same thing. For instance, men might be in the service of a firm who could not dispense with their presence for the whole fifteen days, though they might be able to let them off for eight days. In that case, it might be the best course for the particular unit to begin with the whole fifteen days. Some men might be there for the first eight days, and others for the last eight days; and they were particularly anxious that the headquarters of the unit should be kept standing for the full period so that the men might have an opportunity of taking as long a training as they could.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I do not press the Amendment, and ask leave to withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved, to leave out the words "not less than eight nor more than." He said that his object was to elicit from the right hon. Gentleman some definite statement as to what were the intentions of the Government as to the amount of training a territorial soldier was annually to receive, how much the cavalry, how much the infantry, and how much the artillery. They had endeavoured for some two hours to get a definite statement from the right hon. Gentleman with reference to preliminary training, but they had obtained absolutely no satisfaction at all. Now they approached the annual training, as to which they had had some slight indication of what was meant by the right hon. Gentleman, because he said that the training should not be less than eight days and not more than fifteen. He also put in the Bill a provision by which the commanding officer, if he thought fit, could extend the training to thirty days, or reduce it to none at all; he agreed that something of that sort was necessary. So that it was in the mind of the right hon. Gentleman that the annual training should vary from eight to fifteen days; he would allow some corps to train for eight days, and for others, he presumed, the right hon. Gentleman favoured fifteen days instead of eight. If they looked at the estimate which the right hon. Gentleman made as to the cost of the Territorial Force they saw that it was based on fifteen days' training, and therefore he presumed that the right hon. Gentleman was aiming at fifteen days. Personally, he was in favour of fifteen days training. The bulk of the Militia had always trained for twenty-eight days. If the Militia joined the Territorial Force, they would have some 90,000 men of the Territorial Force who would receive annually fifteen days' training instead of twenty-eight days—a very considerable reduction. As to the Yeomanry, he gathered from what had been said by those interested in that force that in all probability it was to be three or four days more than the fifteen days. With regard to the Volunteers, there were many who could not come out for fifteen days, but there were a great many who could and ought to come out. He had conversed with several commanding officers of Volunteers, who had pointed out that they could train the men perfectly well in eight days if all the men came up with the same amount of military education. Some of them came up for training well grounded in the work, whilst others were not grounded at all. The result was that if the commanding officer wished to train all the men on the same scale he must begin at the bottom of the ladder. If they had fifteen days there was always the second week to bring up to a proper state of efficiency those who were not well grounded. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out the words, 'not less than eight nor more than.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. HALDANE said the purpose of the scheme was to get fifteen days training whenever they could, and therefore they had proposed standing camps for fifteen days. When the men of a particular unit could not come for fifteen days half of them might come for the first week and half for the second week. The proposal of the Government was to give fifteen days training to the territorial soldier wherever it was possible.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT said it was a great pleasure to him to be able to support the view of the Secretary of State for War. He was sure that it was a sound view, although, as his hon. friend had said, fifteen days were better than eight. A man gained enormously in camp after the first week. There were a large number of men whose employment rendered it absolutely impossible for them to be absent for fifteen days. There were a certain number of men who would be able to stay in camp ten, eleven, twelve or even fifteen days. For those reasons he thought the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman would be best left as it was. He desired to impress on the Secretary of State for War that he should settle as early in the year as possible the dates of the annual training. In the case of many members of the Territorial Force who were juniors in their various offices, leave of absence was fixed very early in the year, and it would be a great advantage if they knew in January or February the date upon which the camp was likely to be held, so that they would be able to make their arrangements. In that case they would be able by working extra time or adopting other means so to arrange as to obtain leave for the whole period of training. In the past they had suffered very much from the uncertainty in regard to the time of holding the camps, and in some cases they had not known anything about the matter until June.

Captain CRAIG asked if the training in the case of the artillery was to be limited to fifteen days. He did not think efficiency could be achieved with such a short training.

Mr. HALDANE pointed out that in Section 14 there was power given to extend the time of the annual training in the case of the artillery. The ordinary rule, however, would be fifteen days subject to extension.

Mr. CARLILE asked if that would apply to the Yeomanry, who would have to train their horses as well. He did not think they could train the Yeomanry in the same number of days as the infantry.

Mr. HALDANE said the power he had just mentioned of extending the time of training applied to the Yeomanry just as much as the artillery.

Mr. CARLILE asked whether it was the intention of the Government that the present training of the Yeomanry, which was eighteen days, should be cut down to fifteen days.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question is not in order on this Amendment.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked whether the fifteen days training would be open to the whole of the Volunteer force from the date of the Act. He understood that there was to be a transition period, and he would like to know whether this was confined to those corps transferred to the Territorial Army, or whether in the event of the Bill passing all Volunteer corps would be allowed to go back to the fifteen days training next year.

MR. HALDANE said he doubted whether the suggestion was a practical one, because the Bill would not be passed until they were well into July, and therefore the arrangements could not be made in time for the next camp. He hoped that next year the Territorial Force might have fifteen days training all round.

MR. ASHLEY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said the answer to the Amendment he wished to move had been partly given already. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that in case fifteen days was not thought to be sufficient the period could be extended by Order in Council. He would like to know why was it necessary to have the limit in at all. It seemed to him that if an Order in Council could be used in special cases it could be used in all cases. The limit which had been inserted would tend to establish that number of days as a sort of maximum. The Yeomanry were now trained for more than fifteen days, and it was impossible to train them properly in anything less than that period. It should not be forgotten that the right hon. Gentleman was proposing to make the training of the Yeomanry more difficult, and therefore it was more necessary than ever that they should have an extended period of training. If the Yeomanry were going to be trained as cavalry soldiers they would have to undergo a more difficult and exacting training than at present. Did the fifteen days include the occasional drills, or did it merely apply to the annual training? He did not know what the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman might be in future in regard to the Yeomanry outside the annual training, and the question whether those occasional days were included was a very important one. He thought it was rather an unfortunate thing that eight or fifteen days should be put in the clause at all; it would have been far better to allow the whole subject to be dealt with as the occasion arose. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 12, to leave out the word 'fifteen' and insert the word 'twenty-one.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'fifteen' stand part of the Clause."

MR. HALDANE asked what he was to do when, taking the Bill as it stood, he found one set of critics pulling one way, saying it was too vague, and another set of critics pulling the other way, saying, "You are too specific. Do not fall into the temptation these others are spreading for you." It was very desirable that the force should have some certainty about the training. Mounted troops might find that they could train for longer periods than fifteen days, and there was a provision in a later section to deal with that. But for normal cases there should be some limit, and fifteen days was a fair one. That being so, he thought that the Bill as it stood was in the form most suitable for the accomplishment of their purpose. He therefore could not accept the Amendment.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that it was a question of experience whether they could get the men out for more than fourteen days. Perhaps he was aware that the usual time in camp was eighteen days, and therefore practical experience had shown that the men could do all that was asked. The right hon. Gentleman should not curtail the period which now existed. If he could give an assurance that that would not be done they would be delighted. There should be fifteen days actual training, the two days required for marching in and the Sundays, which were equally unavailable for training, being excluded.

*MR. W. F. D. SMITH said that some of the Yeomanry came out for sixteen days, but they did their squadron drills at other times of the year. That might be convenient for some, but it was hopelessly inconvenient for others. He suggested that it might be made possible that those for whom it was inconvenient should be allowed to add a training period which would be deemed equal in value to the occasional drills required from the force.

MR. HALDANE said the suggestion of the hon. Member was a very sensible one, but there was power to do that. There were some regiments which could not take squadron drills at the same time as others.

MR. LANE-FOX asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) moved to leave out the words "or oftener." He thought they were all agreed that there was a great deal of ambiguity in the Bill. It was obvious, for the purpose of obtaining recruits, that those recruits must know what they were enlisted for, and what was likely to happen to them when once they had enlisted. That being so, he would like to ask the Secretary of State for War if he would be good enough to define the meaning of the words "called out." He took it that they meant that a recruit was called upon to leave his employment for the time being when he was wanted to perform drill or other training. The Auxiliary Forces would suffer a great deal if there were any uncertainty on the part of the recruit when he joined the Territorial Army as to whether he would be called upon once or more than once during the course of the year for the purpose of training. It was his endeavour to make the scheme as much a success as possible, but he had great apprehension that if it failed the country would be placed in a dangerous position. It would never be possible to get that efficiency in the proposed Territorial Army which the right hon. Gentleman hoped for, but they should certainly endeavour to make the condition of its members as little onerous as possible, with efficiency as the object. Recruits should know exactly what their liabilities were going to be and for how many day, in ordinary circumstances, they were likely to be called out. There was a potent factor to be considered in this matter, viz., the employer. They knew that employers as a whole took an antipathy to the Militiaman and even to the Reservist. If there was a doubt as to what the training of the Territorial Army recruit was going to be, that antipathy on the part of the employer would be increased to an enormous extent. As the Bill existed at the present time it would act as a deterrent to recruiting in the Territorial Army. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 15, to leave out the words 'or oftener.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he would like to join the noble Lord in protesting against anything being done which would act as a deterrent to recruits entering the force. That might be the effect if they thought that they were to be liable to too much drill. The employer difficulty was a very serious one indeed. If there was any increased liability put on employers to allow their employees to get away for training, he was sure that one of the first questions they would ask a man who applied for work was whether he was a member of the Territorial Force. If the applicant was in the force the employer would say that he wanted a clerk who would be at the office when required, and not a Territorial soldier. That employer might be willing to allow the man to go for training once a year, but it was a very serious matter to ask him to allow the man to go a second time. He took it that the right hon. Gentleman wished that there should be fifteen days training, but that they need not be consecutive days. If that was so, the subsection migh tbe expressed in happier words. He thought the words "or oftener" were liable to the construction put upon them by his noble friend.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.) said he might be allowed to say a word on this question, not from the point of view of the Treasury Bench, but as one of the commanding officers of Volunteers. If they were to take out the words "or oftener," they would suffer from the disabilities which commanding officers suffered from now. Sometimes they could get a man to come for three or four days twice a year, though they might not be able to get him for eight days at a stretch owing to the conditions of his ordinary employment. Under the words in the section a Territorial soldier could be called out for three or four days at one time, and could complete the eight days at another time. It would be a great advantage to the commanding officers of Volunteers to have that power, which they did not possess at the present time.

MR. COURTHOPE said that when the men came out for a few days here and there they could never get a battalion all together for drill. He quite agreed that the rule should apply to the annual training; but the men might say that that was all very well, but that they did not intend to do this, that, or the other thing, and that they would not turn out when called upon to serve oftener than once in any part of the United Kingdom.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that something of the sort suggested by the hon. Member's Amendment would be very useful indeed. But they should not press the Secretary for War unduly, but leave him some time to consider the matter.

MR. HALDANE said that they were at one in their purpose, and he would consider the matter between now and the Report stage, and see whether the words could not be altered.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said that after that assurance he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT moved to leave out Subsection (b), and to insert, 'Provided that the commanding officer may for any cause which he deems sufficient dispense wholly or in part with the attendance at such training of any individual man.'" He said there were generals and generals. There were some who were very human and took a true view of life, and others who did not. He thought that the commanding officer was the best judge as to when a cause was sufficient to allow the attendance at training of any individual man to be dispensed with wholly or in part. There were heaps of control over the commanding officer, who was only appointed for four years.

MR. WYNDHAM, on a point of order, submitted that an Amendment of which he had given notice ought to be taken first.

VISCOUNT MORPETH remarked that he had on the Paper a proposal to add the following new subsection —

"Every man of the first (Militia) battalion of the territorial regiment shall be trained three months on enlistment, and shall train for thirty days in every year subsequently during his term of service."

*THE CHAIRMAN said that he thought the noble Viscount's Amendment would not be in order now. The period of training had already been dealt with.

MR. WYNDHAM said that they had already dealt with the period of preliminary training of recruits, although not satisfactorily to hon. Members on that side of the House. What they were now dealing with was the annual training of the Auxiliary Forces. His object, no less than that of the right hon. Gentleman, was to fit the cavalry and artillery sections of the Auxiliary Forces so that they should be capable for the support of, and expansion on emergency into, the Regular Army. With that view the Opposition had advised the Government to improve the Militia and the Yeomany and impose upon both of them the obligation for foreign service; to provide for Regular Artillery; and to show the Volunteers a great deal of consideration. That plan had been put on one side. The Government had taken the body of the Militia and converted it into a draft-making machine, and the cream of the Yeomanry were to be put into a Reserve. With regard to the Artillery, they were told that there was power to drill for thirty days, which might or might not be applied. How vague was the situation of this force which was to support and expand the first line of the Regular Army! The right hon. Gentleman was trying to do the impossible. The plan suggested in the Amendment was one by which, at any rate, some of the troops of the Territorial Force could receive a more adequate training. Taking the force as the right hon. Gentleman would constitute it, consisting only of the Volunteers and the efficient part of the Yeomanry, some portion of that force should receive sufficient training in each year. There were fifty-six regiments of Yeomanry cavalry. If one out of eight trained for two months each year, each regiment would only be asked to make that effort once in seven years. The number of batteries of artillery were far in excess of fifty-six, and if one Volunteer artillery battery out of eight were asked to train for two months in each year, that obligation would only come once in fifteen, seventeen, or twenty years. As to the Infantry, only one regiment out of eight would be asked to serve for one month, which would not be a great burden upon them. He suggested that if the training of the second line was at present inadequate there would be a good opportunity, if the Amendment were carried, for Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry being trained together at least once every seven years.

Amendment proposed :—

"In page 12, line 19, after the word 'that' to insert the words, 'one out of every eight regiments of Cavalry or batteries of Field Artillery shall be trained for two months, and one out of every eight battalions of Infantry for one month in each year, and that.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HALDANE said it was impossible to lay it down that out of every eight battalions of Infantry there was to be selected one to be trained every year for a month. What did the right hon. Gentleman mean? Did he mean that there was to be a relation among the eight so that each was to be trained for a month in each succeeding year, because if they got into that sort of controversy there would be interminable confusion? Moreover, some men might come out of some battalions to avoid a month's training, while others might go into other battalions to obtain it. He took the right hon. Gentleman to mean, however, that one out of the eight battalions was to have special training, and that raised a question which they had discussed at an earlier stage of the Bill, whether there should be a special force raised out of the Territorial Army which should have special training. He never wished to preclude that, as he thought there might be units of the Territorial Force desirous of taking a longer preliminary and annual training. If they got that, the condition of the right hon. Member would be fulfilled. But that must depend upon circumstances and experience. It might be desirable to couple that longer training with a promise to go on foreign service if required. But this was one of those things about which they wished to know a great deal before they did anything. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman, however, as to both the Infantry and the other forces was unworkable under the provisions of the Bill.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said his right hon. friend's proposal was that the period of training should be lengthened for a certain number of soldiers in the Territorial Army, and he must support an Amendment to that effect. He did not like the Amendment of his right hon. friend, however, so well as he liked his own, which, instead of doing it by rota, provided that the men who were trained for a longer time should go into one battalion His Amendment was to the effect that every man of the first (Militia) battalion of the Territorial regiment should be trained three months on enlistment, and for thirty days in every year subsequently during his term of service. He thought that would be satisfactory, and that there were many of the old Militia who would join on those terms who would otherwise be lost. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman thought that these men would go into the third battalion, but it was not his opinion or the opinion of those who were engaged in connection with the organisation of the Auxiliary Forces. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to find some place in which these men could serve. There would then be time for the battalion to do musketry at the same time as their training. What was the result of constant training in musketry?

The Regulars who did most training came first, the Militia second, and the Volunteers, who only did it in odds and ends of time, came third, although they had some very fine shots.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: The Volunteers come third in musketry ?

*VISCOUNT MORPETH repeated that that was the case; the figures were as he had stated. There was nothing to take offence at, however, as it was not the fault of the Volunteers. It showed the necessity for training in musketry practice. The extra length of training would enable them to get a much more efficient battalion than could be obtained with musketry drills at odds and ends of time. Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men could only learn their work and gain confidence by training, and where the officers of the auxiliary Army at present failed was in lack of confidence, which the regular officer got through living with his men. He urged the Secretary of State for War to provide for the men who were prepared to take a longer training, and to consider whether it would not be possible to have such a battalion as he proposed.

*COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.) hoped the Amendment would not be pressed, and said the right hon. Gentleman could carry out the object he had in view under the clause as it stood. There was nothing in the clause to prevent certain units getting more training in certain areas, because by Order in Council His Majesty might order that the whole or part of the Territorial Army might undergo such training. The Secretary of State for War might recommend His Majesty to exercise that power, and the only difficulty was the financial one.

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. and gallant Member might think there was that power, but they did not. They wanted something definite in the Bill. They were to have 300,000 men, and the Government were under no obligation to train any of them at all. With a view to minimising that national danger they wished the House to say that at least one-eighth part of the force should be trained. He could not recede from that.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 55; Noes, 223. (Division List No. 212.)

AYES.

Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baring, Capt. Hn. G. (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bennett, E. N.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)

Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts., Bassetlaw)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Parker, James (Haliafx)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monmth
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT moved an Amendment providing that the commanding officer, and not "the prescribed general officer," should have the power to dispense with the attendance at training of individual men. As he had pointed out to the Secretary of State, this Bill almost effaced the commanding officer. The drill was to be given by the brigadier, the permission to leave the force was to be given by the County Association; in point of fact he could not see what use the commanding officer was at all under the Bill. He warned the right hon. Gentleman that he was making a great mistake if he thought he was going to work the Territorial Force without the commanding officer. The Auxiliary Forces were formed by the commanding officers almost in the teeth of the authorities, and if the right hon. Gentleman was going to get rid of the commanding officers he might as well give up the Territorial Force altogether. One reason why he hoped the Secretary of State would accept the Amendment was that the right hon. Gentleman had already, agreeing wisely with the advice offered on all hands, been good enough to put back the regular adjutants, who who were abolished by the Bill as drafted. The regular adjutant was undoubtedly a very great check on a too indulgent commanding officer, and it was essential to the welfare of the force that the units should look to the commanding officer. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to trust the commanding officer, or if he did not trust him to remove him at once. They had every opportunity to do so, because he was only appointed for four years; but let not the right hon. Gentleman give the go-by to the commanding officer and say that the brigadier or the division general should do this, that, and the other. The commanding officer was responsible for the efficiency of the unit, would not be too indulgent, and could judge every case upon its merits. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to remember that the successful administration of the Act depended on the good will of the commanding officer. He begged to move.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he would have to put the Amendment in rather a different form.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 19, to leave out the words 'prescribed general,' and to insert the word 'commanding.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. HALDANE said the hon. and gallant Member throughout the discussion had been much concerned as to the position of the commanding officer. The Government had no intention or idea of diminishing his position. All they desired to do was to make his position more like that of a regular officer. The provision they were now introducing was introduced with no view of injuring the position of the commanding officer, but in reality for his assistance. It was very undesirable that the commanding officer should be exposed to the odium which sometimes attached to those who had to deal with these matters and say "No." Sometimes it was not very easy to have to say "No." He disliked to say "No" to the hon. and gallant Gentleman.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Then say yes.

MR. HALDANE said he was a member of the Army Council and his colleagues would not let him. It was desirable that the commanding officer should have some uniformity of standard by being able to refer to the brigadier, who should be the judge of what the standard should be. The brigadier would take the commanding officer's recommendation in every proper case. In the ordinary way the application would be made to the commanding officer and by him forwarded with his recommendation to the brigadier. That system obtained in analogous cases in the Regular Forces. For that reason he thought it was better that the clause should stand as at present, and thus allow the division general or the brigadier to be the judge in these cases. To meet the view of hon. Members opposite he was prepared to add, after the words "application being made in the prescribed manner," some such words as these: "through the commanding officer of the unit." That would ensure the applications going through the proper channel, but he thought that the prescribed general officer should be the ultimate tribunal.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said he wished to support the view of his hon. friend with regard to the commanding officers. They ought not to take these matters of detail out of the hands of the commanding officers, because it went a very great way towards undermining their position. He could only say that under no circumstances would he himself agree to the command of a regiment if these small matters were taken out of his hands and given to another person put over his head to direct the movement of men who were virtually, or were supposed to be, under his command. He thought that the great drawback of the criticism of the present military system was that those who made it had very little experience of regimental life. He knew that the experience of the commanding officer of a regiment did not appeal to the right hon. Gentlemen in the same manner that it appealed to himself and those who had served in the Army or Auxiliary Forces; but the authority of a commanding officer in barracks or over the regiment was paramount.

MR. HALDANE: In the Regular Army it is the brigadier.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said that the man in the barracks looked upon the commanding officer as all-powerful. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to make the commanding officer absolutely responsible, and if he failed, censure him and dismiss him at once. No penalty could be too hard for a commanding officer who assumed responsibility and did not carry it out in a proper manner. The right hon. Gentleman should be very careful that the authority of the commanding officer was not weakened. It was said that the removal of these small things relieved the commanding officer of a certain amount of work, and that he would not be under the necessity of saying "no." But these matters were so absolutely connected with his command that he urged the right hon. Gentleman to make the commanding officer responsible to him, and give him jurisdiction over the whole of these small matters.

*MR. COURTHOPE hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give way. These were matters for the commanding officer, who should not wish to shelter himself behind some higher power; it was not desirable that he should be able so to shelter himself. If any commanding officer refused leave of absence, it would be very much better that he should do it on his own responsibility. He would be respected by the men. But the commanding officer who said, "I am very sorry; I would like to give you leave of absence, but I am not allowed to do so," would forfeit the respect of the men at once. It was not desirable that there should be an opportunity of shirking responsibility on the part of the commanding officer, and he was perfectly sure that the commanding officers themselves did not in the least desire that opportunity. Then there was another important matter bearing on this question, contained in the worns, "application made in the prescribed manner." That meant a form to be filled in, and within a small space the reasons had to be stated for asking leave of absence from camp. Necessarily the reason had to be stated in a few words, and a great number of the applications would no doubt appear in the same form of words, although the true reasons might be entirely different in the various cases. But the commanding officer would know the difference between the cases; he would know that one case was stronger than another, though the form might be the same, and if he had not this personal knowledge himself, he was at least in close touch with his company officers, who had. How was the brigadier to know or judge of these matters; he had no local knowledge; he did not know the men or their employers. He might refuse leave of absence on every application that came within the same category. In some cases he might be right, and in other cases he might inflict grave injustice. It was very desirable that applications for leave of absence should not pass through too many hands. It was very desirable also they should not get into a stereotyped form, which was inevitable if these fatal words "prescribed manner" were left in the Bill.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said this was not a question dealing with mere detail. It did not only apply to the men, as had been argued on the other side of the House, but it applied to units. How were they going to allow a commanding officer to dispense with his whole unit? [Cries of "Read the

Amendment."] If they looked at the section they would see that it said—

> "Provided that the prescribed general officer may, for any cause which he thinks sufficient, dispense wholly or in part as respects any unit or individual man with the requirements of this section on application being made in the prescribed manner."

Surely that took it out of the category put forward. [Renewed cries of "Read the Amendment."]

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said the question before the Committee was to leave out the words "the prescribed general officer," with the view of inserting "the commanding officer," and the question was limited to that.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the Amendment on the Paper was "Provided that the commanding officer may for any cause which he deems sufficient dispense wholly or in part with the attendance at such training of any individual man."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not the question put from the Chair; the Amendment on the Paper is not under discussion.

*COLONEL HERBERT said he had great sympathy with the views of the hon. Member for Central Sheffield, and he would suggest that they might be met by making the clause read "Provided that the prescribed officer may for any cause which he thinks fit," and so forth, and, at the end, inserting the words "subject to the revision of the general officer commanding." That would give power to the general officer commanding to delegate his power in this respect to the officer commanding the unit, which would be a very good thing to do. It would also give him the power to see that the commanding officer carried out the duty with proper regard to the requirements of the servie. He had had some experience of this sort of application, and he could say as a chief staff officer of the district, that one got in the course of the day baskets full of applications of this nature. These were examined by a subordinate and were put before the officer, who had to sign them, by the bushel. The staff officer could not exercise discretion as the commanding officer might do, and the commanding officer was tempted, as the hon. Gentleman opposite had observed, to throw the odium of refusal upon his superior officer. He thought that the clause could be so drafted as to thoroughly safeguard the position of the general officer commanding, and at the same time enable the duties to be performed by the officer who was commanding.

MR. HALDANE said he himself wished to meet the sense of the Committee, and he thought that they were very much of the mind of his hon. and gallant friend who had just spoken, but it was obvious that he would have to give some consideration as to what the words should be. His hon. and gallant friend had pointed out what, of course, they knew to be the feeling of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, whose Amendment had to be put in a more limited form than that in which it appeared on the Paper, but the proposal would apply to the unit. He thought that there was a great deal in what had been said by his hon. and gallant friend, and he would consider before Report whether he could frame a form of words which would steer clear of the unit while giving effect to what was proposed.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he was very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman, who, he thought, would see at once how, by his giving way, business was greatly advanced. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would continue in his new frame of mind, and not be in the least afraid of the Army Council. He begged to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH moved to leave out sub-section (2) (a). He said that the right hon. Gentleman and himself seemed to have the same object in view, yet in the scheme everything was left as indefinite as possible, and members of the Territorial Force might have many surprises sprung upon them. He ventured to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to give them something more definite. Effective members of the Territorial Force would ask how many days they were to serve in the year, and the answer would be that it would be fifteen days unless His Majesty in Council decreed that it should be thirty days.

Men might be called to serve thirty days. He had had a certain amount of experience in recruiting. He remembered a resolution setting forth that recruits were being entrapped into the Army, and to a certain extent that was true. In the system of recruiting the smallest thing acted as a deterrent. In regard to the Territorial Force, where a man would be called upon to make some self-sacrifice, the slightest deterrent or uncertainty would cause him to draw back and make up his mind not to join the force. Therefore he invited the Secretary of State for War to specify the exact number of days so that a man joining the force would be able to make his arrangements from one year's end to another. He was sure that if a particular number of days was specified it would greatly facilitate the success of the scheme.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 24, to leave out sub-section (a)."—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. HALDANE said that for reasons he had already stated he was unable to accept the Amendment. It was absolutely essential that there should be some latitude in the matter. An Order in Council made under this clause would have to lie on the Table of the House for not less than thirty days. It was quite possible that an emergency might arise such as was the case in 1900, when emergency Volunteer camps were set up for a very good reason. They might be on the verge of war; a serious situation might arise, when it might be desirable to ask the Volunteers to take thirty days training. It was highly desirable to retain the sub-section, and he could not accept the Amendment.

Mr. ASHLEY said that although he had much sympathy with the Amendment, they must be very careful to do nothing that would deter men from joining the territorial force. He appreciated what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman in regard to a threatened war or a complication with a foreign Power. Under such circumstances it would be the absolute duty of the Government to train the whole Territorial Force for thirty days. He hoped the noble Lord would not divide the Committee on his Amendment.

Lord BALCARRES said the Amendment had been moved to get a precise statement from the right hon. Gentleman. They had been told that the War Office must have some latitude in the matter, and he quite agreed. He did not, however, think that any Act had ever been passed which conferred so much latitude on the War Office as this Bill, because it was all latitude. The annual training might be reduced by the Secretary of State for War to one day, and he might lay down that the whole or part of the Territorial Force in any given year should have no training whatever. That was latitude if ever there was any. He objected to that kind of thing very much, and in setting up this great citizen army, he thought the House of Commons ought itself to lay down the main lines upon which it was to be organised. The right hon. Gentleman said that latitude was required, and he quoted as an example the year 1900, when there were emergency camps for the Volunteers. The Secretary of State for War already possessed a power under the embodiment clause, by which he could establish emergency camps. He thought Clause 14, like many other clauses in this Bill, was almost a farce, because the sub-section which they had been solemnly passing, laying down that the training should not be less than eight or more than fifteen days, meant absolutely nothing when read in connection with what was provided lower down in the clause. Uncertainty was the greatest deterrent which could be placed in the way of recruiting. Under this scheme the man who enlisted in a particular force had no idea what the actual obligations of the camp were going to be. He regretted that the clause placed responsibility on the authorities at the War Office which ought to be taken by the House of Commons.

Viscount CASTLEREAGH said he did not desire to press his Amendment to a division. All he desired was to make the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman a success, and he wished to impress upon him that the element of uncertainty was one of the things which would be most likely to ruin the scheme. He begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. COURTHOPE moved to leave out Subsection (b), which gave power to His Majesty in Council to order the period of the annual training to be reduced to such time as His Majesty might think fit. The period might be reduced below the minimum of eight days. He protested strongly against any such power, because it would reduce training to a perfect farce, and do away with its whole value. When they went out for eight days training under the present system there was nothing done on the first day they went into camp, which was generally on the Saturday. On the Sunday following there was nothing done owing to the idea that on Sunday all the men should be allowed to loaf about the streets, and the following Monday was generally spent in getting over the effects of their loafing about on the Sunday or in settling down. Consequently they did not begin serious training until the Tuesday. On the Friday they had to pack up and Saturday they went home. Consequently they had only three days of real work, and for the Secretary of State for War to reduce that eight days training, say to five days, would not leave them a single working day of any value at all. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw the subsection.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 28, to leave out Subsection (b)."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. BUCHANAN said the same considerations applied to this Amendment as to the previous one. What the Government were doing was merely to put into the clause the *ipsissima verba* of the Militia Act. Nobody had complained of the provision, and it was clearly desirable that the power should be continued. He could not accept the Amendment.

*MR. COURTHOPE said the hon. Gentleman had not touched his objection. In the Militia Act the minimum was not eight days, but a much longer period. He regarded eight days as far too short a period. It was perfectly ridiculous to retain power to reduce it further.

*COLONEL WALKER (Lancashire, Widnes) pointed out that the Secretary of State had on the previous Amendment to Subsection (a) stated that these subsections could only be enforced by an Order in Council, which entailed the necessity of Papers in reference thereto lying on the Table of each House for thirty days. To use so ponderous a method of extending a training from fifteen days to thirty days, as in Subsection (a), or in diminishing the days of training from fifteen days to less, as in Subsection (b), must make the inclusion of these subsections in this clause inoperative, and if they were essential to the Bill they ought to be embodied under some other clause, where the machinery to enforce them might be more easily set in motion.

MR. COURTHOPE asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. COURTHOPE moved to omit Subsection (c) providing that His Majesty in Council might "Order that in any year the annual training of all or any part of the Territorial Force be dispensed with." He said that was a dangerous and mischievous power to give to a Government. If pressure was put upon them by the Party keen on anti-militarism they might give way in order to save so many hundred thousand pounds. He did not suggest for a moment that the present Government were likely to exercise the power, but he knew that a certain section of their followers would like them to do so. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 31, to leave out Subsection (c)."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. BUCHANAN said he could add very little to what he had already stated in refusing previous Amendments. The cardinal reason for the maintenance of this subsection was the same as that which had induced the Government to maintain the previous one. They merely asked for the continuance of a power which had existed for many years in regard to the Militia. There had been no complaint in regard to it, and therefore they were warranted in asking that the power should be continued.

Mr. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) said that some years ago there was a serious epidemic of smallpox in Glasgow, and it would have been absolute folly at that time to gather the battalions into camp. It was not done, and it seemed to him a very good thing to have power under such circumstances to dispense with the annual training of the Volunteers.

Lord BALCARRES said that in the event of a serious epidemic it would be contrary to public health to call out a corps, and of course the corps ought not to be called out.

Question put, and agreed to.

*Colonel HERBERT moved an Amendment to provide that a member of the Territorial Force might receive instruction "with his own or other unit of the Regular or Territorial Forces." He said that his object was to meet a difficulty which was very well known to all officers connected with the Auxiliary Forces, especially in the case of recruits. The Amendment, if adopted, would make it possible for a man to perform part or the whole of his training with another unit than that to which he legally belonged. It frequently happened that a man, owing to the circumstances of his ordinary employment, was obliged to move from one place to another. He did not wish to sever his connection with the regiment to which he belonged, but it might be impossible in the circumstances in which he found himself to carry out the recruit's training or possibly the annual training with the corps in which he had enlisted. Under these circumstances it was merely a matter of administrative arrangement that the man should be allowed to perform those duties with the most convenient unit that happened to be available. If he happened to be at a place where there was a garrison of Regular troops, he would gain a great advantage in being allowed to perform his duties with the Regular Force.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'instruction' to insert the words, 'with his own or other unit of the Regular or Territorial Forces.'"—(*Colonel Herbert.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. BUCHANAN said this was a reasonable and sensible proposal, but he thought the words were unnecessary, for there was power already to do what his hon. and gallant friend proposed.

Mr. ASHLEY said that, if the Government were in cordial sympathy with the Amendment, there could surely be no objection to inserting the words in the Bill. What they wanted was an efficient Territorial Force, and no difficulty should be put in the way of the men getting the necessary training.

*Colonel HERBERT asked his hon. friend to state where the power was to be found. He had failed to find it in the Bill.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE was understood to say that a man could be transferred from one unit to another with his own consent.

*Colonel HERBERT said he did not wish to press the Amendment, though he thought if the words were put in they would make the matter clearer.

Lord BALCARRES said he could not understand why there should be any reluctance to accept an obligation on the part of the War Office in drafting regulations to reserve this right to members of the Territorial Forces. The Amendment was a very modest and simple one. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman had taken rather a harsh line towards the Volunteers. The Amendment would be very highly valued by the Volunteer Forces and he could not understand why the instruction should not be made mandatory on the War Office.

MAJOR SEELY asked his hon. friend whether he could not give the Committee any further assurance on this point. It was of the utmost importance that a man should be able to train with any unit. He understood that that could be done under Subsection (3), Clause 14, "in accordance with orders and regulations under this part of this Act." If that was so, his point would be made good; but if not, he would press it in every way. The Amendment was a corollary of the Amendment which the right hon. Gentleman had accepted the previous night.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said there was nothing in the words of the section to prevent an Order in Council being issued which would give power to a Volunteer to train with another unit than his own; but he gave an undertaking that the right of training referred to in the Amendment should find a place in the regulations to be issued under the Order in Council.

*COLONEL HERBERT said that on that understanding he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15:—

MR. ASHLEY moved to leave out the word "extending," and to insert the word "varying." An extraordinary state of things would arise under the clause as it stood. The clause ran that—

> "Before any Order in Council is made under this Act providing for preliminary training or extending the period of annual training, the draft thereof shall be laid before each House of Parliament for a period of not less than thirty days during the session of Parliament, and if either of those Houses, before the expiration of those thirty days, presents an address to His Majesty against the draft or any part thereof, no further proceedings shall be taken, without prejudice to the making of a new draft Order."

That was to say, that the Order should lie on the Table of both Houses of Parliament if it extended the period of training, but if the period of training was to be reduced the Order was not to lie on the Table. His contention was that it was equally important that Parliament should have the opportunity of expressing an opinion on the action of the Government, whether the period of training were extended or reduced. In fact he thought it was, if anything, more important that Parliament should have a say in the matter if the period of training was to be reduced.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 12, line 38, to leave out the word 'extending,' and insert the word 'varying.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'extending' stand part of the clause."

MR. BUCHANAN said that the substance of the clause was that all Orders in Council which dealt with preliminary training were to be laid on the Table of the House for a period of thirty days. The distinction pointed out by the hon. Member was made because it was recognised that the increase of obligations on any individual or corps of the Territorial Forces was a matter which should be brought to the cognisance of Parliament, and that Parliament should have the opportunity of objecting to extending the period of training. It was on that ground that the words in the clause were inserted.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said he heartily supported the Amendment. In his opinion it was in the interests not only of the Territorial Forces, but of the welfare of the nation that the House should be able to express an opinion upon any proposal to lessen the amount of training. Some hon. Members thought that the preliminary training of the Artillery branch of the Territorial Forces was already insufficient, and if that were to be limited still further the House should have notice of it, so that it could be discussed freely. If it was intended to place further restrictions on the joint Territorial Force it appeared that the matter had to be brought before Parliament, but if it was desired to reduce the period of training the House was to have nothing to do with it. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment, which he was sure would not interfere with any regulations which the War Office might find it necessary to make in altering the time of training.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16 :—

LORD BALCARRES moved the omission of the first subsection with a view of obtaining from the representatives of the War Office their views on the important question of the training of the Territorial Force on embodiment. As drafted, the subsection laid it down that immediately upon and by virtue of the issue of a proclamation ordering the Army Reserve to be called out on permanent service it should be lawful for His Majesty to order the Army Council from time to time to give and when given to revoke or vary such directions as might seem necessary or proper for embodying all or any part of the Territorial Force. He thought it right that when the Army Reserve was called out on permanent service the embodiment of the Territorial Force should follow, but the vital point was what were the circumstances under which the territorial soldiers were to be trained? They had been frequently told by the Secretary of State for War that six months training should be given to the Territorial Force, but it was admitted that there was nothing in the Bill giving a guarantee that that should be the case, and he suggested that there ought to be put in this clause, which was the embodiment clause, some tangible proof that in the belief of the Government six months training was required. It was a very grave matter, perhaps the gravest in the Bill. The assumption on the part of the War Office was that six months grace would on the declaration of war be received by this country before a force came to attack our shores.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that the clause provided that where, under any such proclamation, directions had been issued for calling out all the men belonging to the first class of the Army Reserve, the Army Council should within one month after such directions had been issued issue directions for embodying all the men belonging to the Territorial Force. The question of the period of training of the troops did not arise on this clause.

LORD BALCARRES said he merely wished to point out that the six months grace which the right hon. Gentleman pre-supposed in regard to this country was absolutely opposed to the experience of all wars. It was opposed to the experience of the Franco-German War and of the Russo-Japanese War, which afforded irrefragible proof that no such grace would be afforded during which troops could be trained. He thought on this clause the War Office should tell them frankly why they considered the embodiment should be postponed until the crisis had arisen. Why, the danger having arisen, should this mystic period of six months be chosen for the training of troops to meet a foreign force which had been trained for a considerably longer period? As, however, the point did not arise on this clause he would not pursue it, but if the Chairman would indicate the clause on which the subject could be debated he would be very much indebted to him.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 6, to leave out Subsection (1)."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. BUCHANAN said the noble Lord had moved the omission of the subsection upon a subject which under the ruling of the Chair they could not discuss at that moment, and he did not think it would be right or proper for him to deal with the matter, except to say that a study of the clause would, he thought, show the *rationale* of the system proposed by his right hon. friend. The noble Lord assumed that the previous training of the Territorial Force was so small as to be of no value, and that the subsequent training would not be sufficient for the purpose which they had in view. But he could not believe that. He would not, however, be led away into the discussion of a matter which was clearly outside the scope of the clause. The clause dealt with the procedure of embodiment, and not with that of training, and it provided that on the Reserve being called out a discretion was to be given as to the calling out of the Territorial Force. Precautions were taken against any abuse of that power in the latter part of the clause, securing that Parliament should have an opportunity of considering the matter, and if it was prorogued or adjourned, should be summoned for the purpose. He did not think that it was possible at that juncture to embark upon the discussion of the subject which the noble Lord had invited them to consider.

LORD BALCARRES said, under the circumstances, as his question was out of order, and the reply of the Under-Secretary was very unsatisfactory, he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, "That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that the clause was a marked example of a characteristic common to many parts of the Bill. It was a piece of sheer make-believe from beginning to end, and only called old things by new names. This part of the Bill was purely mischievous, for what was provided for in the clause would not take place. There would be no embodiment of the Territorial Force as proposed in the clause. The supposition was that there would be a Territorial Force of 300,000 men. No one had told the House what the force was going to do. But they were presumably to be embodied at the outbreak of a great war, and by law the 300,000 men were going to take their places in the ranks, and to remain there subject to the penalties of desertion for a time that had never been specified, though it was supposed to be for six months. When war broke out the corps belonging to Woolwich, Elswick, the Post Office, and other Departments bound up with the Government service were to be enrolled for service, but it was a farce to imagine that the Government could embody these corps for a six months training. This was not a matter of conjecture. General Mackinnon, the present Director of Auxiliary Forces was asked what could be done in the emergency of a great war in the direction of using the Volunteers as units for the purposes of the war. General Mackinnon said it would be impossible to think of calling out the Volunteers as units, but said he was confident that out of London they could obtain two composite regiments and out of the City of Glasgow, in which there were thousands of Volunteers, one—not one unit but one composite regiment from all the Volunteers in Glasgow. What could be said of London and Glasgow and what was the matured judgment of General Mackinnon furnished an idea of what would take place in all the great cities and all over the country. In order to discuss this matter seriously they had to imagine the emergency of some great war. In the history of this country it would be found that we had been at war in the north-west corner of Europe more often than in any other part of the world, and he could imagine a great conflict in which we were engaged in which we had to uphold our treaty rights in the north-west corner of Europe. Was it seriously contended or was it the mere make-believe of this Bill that the Government were going to send round the fiery cross to all our great cities and rural districts, not the fiery cross of Scott's poem, but a fiery cross to selected houses, and say that those men were to come out and leave their business for five, six, or twelve months on the penalty of desertion? The thing was impossible. They had first to exclude from the category of men who were to be called out those whom the public service would not allow to undertake this obligation at all. When the Government talked about 300,000 men why did not they tell the Committee that tens of thousands of those men would not be allowed to come out. He could imagine a war in which the Army was not engaged, but he could not imagine a serious war in which this country was engaged in which the Navy would not take part, and how many men were there in the arsenals who were ancillary to the Navy who were enrolled in the Volunteers and who would be enrolled in this county council Army? Not one of those men could come out. Then there were the great railways. He was looking recently at the monument which had been put up at Euston Station to the men who lost their lives in the South African War, and a noble monument it was to the memory of those who had fallen. But, after all, they were a very small number of the vast mass of railway employees. And there was not a manager of a railway company who would not tell them that the demand made on the railway companies in the war was a source of great embarrassment to them. Let them take the works at Crewe. How many of the men composing the *personnel* of the Crewe works could they call out for a six months embodiment? The hon. Member for Clitheroe would be able to tell them perhaps better than anybody else what would be the result to any of the great industries of Lancashire if, without preparation beforehand, they were suddenly to call out from the mills of Lancashire for six months all the men now enlisted in the Volunteers. It would lead to a demoralisation of business which would be infinitely more serious than the lack of men in such an emergency. It might be perfectly true that in other countries they did mobilise and demoralise the industries of the country, but in that case everything was prepared. The rain fell upon the just and unjust alike. But in this case they said to the residents in the same street that one should be taken and four left. Who was to be the man to be taken? They were told that the man of this county council Army was to be of a very high quality. The hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division had said, as had also the right hon. Gentleman, that the best man in peace was the best man in war. He did not quite agree, but were they to take that man away from his business for six months? Was that going to be tolerated? The only way in which the Government could carry this Bill was by concealing these things. They were not playing fairly with the people of the country. They talked vaguely about six months mobilisation, but they dared not put it in the Bill. They talked about mobilising 300,000 men, but they dared not put it in the Bill that they were going to call these men away from their occupations. If they were serious in this Bill, which they were not, and if they were really thinking of a fighting force, they would have to do what any reasonable man would do when he called out an army. They would have to deduct the inevitable number of casualties for sickness. Let the Under-Secretary of State for India go to the War Office and see what had to be done on the occasion, the emergency of war. Let him look at the nominal lists of regiments and then ask the Intelligence Department what the difference was between the roll of the Army as it stood and the roll in the Intelligence Department as tested by the requirements of war. When that test was applied this clause of embodiment went out. They had to exclude all those who were inefficient, all those who could not be spared on public or commercial grounds, and they would have to exclude a very large class because they were the breadwinners, and could not be spared by their families. He had already alluded to the casualties from sickness or physical infirmity. The hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for the Abercromby Division and the right hon. Gentleman were never tired of telling the Committee that we must rely on the patriotism of the people; but that did not carry them very far. They had to look to reasonable probabilities. Hon. Members no doubt were familiar with what took place in the great American Civil War. That war was a war fought for national existence on the soil of the belligerents. Large numbers of volunteers were embodied under similar conditions to those contemplated by this Bill. They went out for a time, and what happened? They were beaten at Bull's Run and they all began to go home. They said they must attend to their business. Then some of the generals broke every law of the land and said they would shoot them if they attempted to go. Some got home and President Lincoln had to take powers from Congress to compel the men to remain in the ranks. He submitted that it was not reasonable to palm off on the country a proposition of this kind and allow the people to think that in time of war we were going to get 300,000 valid Volunteers because this clause had been stuck in the Bill. He felt that here they had touched one of the very few real points of the Bill. All the talk that had gone before was nothing, because he thought after all the talk the Volunteers would be in the same condition as they were now. But this matter was of real importance, and he asked the Financial Secretary if he would represent to the Secretary of State the desirability of adding to the large number of memoranda with which he was credited one more Memorandum which would give an approximate estimate of the number of men of the Territorial Force who would be available, and whom it would be possible to assemble for six months, or anything like it, in the manner contemplated in this clause. Until then he would respectfully submit that they were entirely in the dark; that the Government were playing with words and not dealing with things. However anxious the Committee might be to see this county council Army called into existence, no one was anxious to vote £3,000,000 to call an army into existence which, when called up for service, would be 50 per cent. below its strength. The Committee ought to be informed as to what was a fair estimate of the number of men that could be called out and kept out for six months. He would also like to know what answer there was to the statement made over and over again by those who had thought much and earnestly about this subject. What was the answer to the problem put by those, with some of whom he did not altogether agree, but whose motives he greatly respected and admired—the members of the National Service League—what answer was to be given to the problem which they propounded? They said, "How are you going to justify to the people of this country the call which will be made for foreign war, or it may be for home war, in case of emergency, upon one section of the community?" It would be a very small section of the community in any case. His right hon. friend held the view that they could safely rely on the individual option of the person enrolled as to whether he would go to war or not. They were taking away that right. They were saying that a certain number of persons, not because they were wiser or more foolish, or better or worse, not because they were more competent or less competent than their neighbours, not because they had a greater or less interest at stake than their neighbours, but because they happened in peace time to be enrolled in the county council Army, were therefore liable to leave their business and employments to become part of the standing Army of the country. The two questions which he had to ask, and to which he would very much like an answer, were, first, whether they would have an analysis which would explain to them what portion of the force could not, by virtue of their circumstances, be embodied at all, and, in the second place, what was the answer to the just feeling of indignation there would be on the part of men who found that they were taken from their employment and their chance of livelihood to serve the nation when their neighbours on either side were left untouched.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was in order in discussing this matter of the county council Army. He believed that they were discussing the Territorial Army.

MR. ARNOLD FORSTER said the Bill stated that instead of using the word "soldier" they were to say "man" of the Territorial Force. The Secretary of State had declined to give a name to this "man" of the Territorial Force, and he had himself, therefore, suggested a name which he thought would be appropriate. The word "soldier" had been ruled out, and the duty of finding a name had been left to him by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. ASHLEY said the right hon. Gentleman had asked two very pointed questions, and he thought that in common courtesy there ought to be some reply from the Secretary for War.

MR. HALDANE said the answer was very simple. This carefully considered clause was the very pith and essence of the proposal. They did not intend to have any analysis, such as had been suggested, as to who would come out and who would not come out. They trusted that in a great emergency, for which alone the clause provided, that people would do their duty; and, more than that, that employers of labour, Government departments, and everybody concerned who could exercise control in the matter would likewise do their duty. To say that that was unreal and a sham was to make a charge against the seriousness of the nation. The clause was one of the most important in the Bill, and they would certainly adhere to it.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the right hon. Gentleman had not had the fortune or misfortune to hear his speech. He had asked two simple questions. He wanted to know how many of these people would be available. There were tens of thousands who not only could not come out, but who ought not to come out. If the right hon. Gentleman would tell him how many men there were engaged in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, at the works at Elswick, and in various Government employments who could not be sacrificed when war came — if he told him how many of these men could not be spared from Government employment and all subsidiary and ancillary employments, because they would be working double shift in time of war, then they would understand where they were. But until he did that, it was of no use the right hon. Gentleman waving his flag and saying he was not going to give particulars.

MR. HALDANE said he fancied he now saw what was at the root of the right hon. Gentleman's criticism. The right hon. Gentleman thought that they intended to enlist into the Territorial Force men whose services would be required in their various employments at home at the time war broke out. That was the old confused proceeding which characterised the Auxiliary Forces at the present time, and which had caused a good deal of their inefficiency. But, as for saying that when they had got men under an obligation like this, they were not to be relied on to come forward, the right hon. Gentleman's own procedure was the refutation of it. The right hon. Gentleman proposed, when he was in office, to constitute a short service Army. Men were to be two years with the colours, and a very long time with the Reserve. The battalions were to be very small, only 500 in establishment, but they were to produce a very great strength of people with a very long time in the Reserve. They were people in civil employments in large numbers. The right hon. Gentleman did not doubt that his people would come forward. Neither did he doubt that the very sensible idea which entered his mind in connection with his proposals would be realised in the present scheme. His answer to the right hon. Gentleman's question was, first, that they intended to eliminate the class of people who could not come forward; and, secondly, that they were acting on the very same principle as the right hon. Gentleman had acted on himself, in their conviction that they would get the men.

MR. WYNDHAM said he must be allowed to refer to the unusual circumstance that the Minister in charge of the Bill should describe a particular clause as containing the whole pith of his scheme, yet, when that clause came on give no explanation of it, nor any argument to show that the whole of his plan hinged upon it.

MR. HALDANE: I did, on the Second Reading.

MR. WYNDHAM said he did not think that the right hon. Gentleman went through the clause on the Second Reading, or that he gave an explanation of it as it stood. But he was well warranted in saying that the right hon. Gentleman had never told the House in so many words that, for example, the Post Office Volunteers were no longer to form part of the Auxiliary Forces of the Crown. That corps was an illustration; many more could be adduced. Many Volunteers must from this moment understand that they were ruled out from the Auxiliary Forces of the Crown. All that sprang from the plan which the right hon. Gentleman insisted upon pursuing, against the advice showered upon him. If there were to be in the force no men who could not be called out the moment the Army Reserve was called on, the right hon. Gentleman was ruling out a very considerable section of the Volunteer Force as they knew it. The Secretary of State had given no explanation except such as they had heard on the Second Reading. But how large were the powers which this clause conferred? If any part of the Army Reserve were called out, it was in the power of the right hon. Gentleman, or his successor, to embody the whole Territorial Force. The obligation was, that when part of the first class Army Reserve were called out, then he must embody the men of the Territorial Force. Was that not right? He understood that if a small part of the Army Reserve were called out, as for instance in 1882 in the Egyptian war, when 3,000 or 4,000 men were sent out, then it was in the power of the Secretary of State to call out the 300,000 men who happened at that time to be serving in any branch of the Territorial Force. That was, he gathered, an accurate statement of the clause. If he was misrepresenting the power lurking in the clause let him be corrected. He was not misinterpreting it. It was a very grave occasion when the Secretary of State for War told them that he was going to eliminate from the Auxiliary Forces all the men who could not answer his summons in time of war, while at the same time, in the Bill, if it became an Act, he took powers to call out 2,000 men of the Reserve, and, with them, the 300,000 men who happened to be in the Territorial Force.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said he appreciated the objection of the right hon. Gentleman, and he understood that there were Members opposite who objected to universal training. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman was a very strong opponent of anything in the nature of universal training. The weakness which he had shown in this particular clause was really not a weakness of the measure; it was a weakness which must always, as his right hon. friend had said, be inherent in any scheme under our voluntary system of enlistment for the Army. It gave rise, of course, to numerous anomalies, and when there was a national emergency the only means of meeting it was by the universal patriotism of the nation. As long as we retained the voluntary system we were bound to face the difficulty that many men who were members of the Territorial Army would find it necessary to remain in their civil employment and to ask for exemption. It was exactly the same under the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, and it would be the same under any proposal, he ventured to say, which could be devised by any Secretary of State for War, as long as we retained the voluntary system. The proposal of the Government set up a machinery which, to his mind, was very useful and serviceable, and he hoped that they would get a considerable proportion of the 300,000 men in time of national emergency. It would set up a nucleus of those who would be able to come out, and to that nucleus, in time of emergency, would be added many others whose patriotism would cause them to join. That was, of course, the best they could expect from any scheme that could be devised under the voluntary system. He did not think that they need be in the least deterred by anything that had been said by the right hon. Gentleman opposite as regarded the difficulties that would present themselves in time of war. He thought they could rely on the fact that this power in the hands of the administration to embody certain units of the Territorial Army, though many men would have to be exempted, would form the nucleus of the Territorial Army which they hoped would be capable of useful service in the field.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the Committee were at a disadvantage, because the Secretary of State for War had been imperfectly informed as to what had taken place during his absence. They were all most anxious to help the right hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member for Chippenham who had just spoken was an advocate of national service, which was a form of conscription, and that would be the inevitable result of this Bill.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: I never said so.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that was the inference he drew from the hon. Baronet's remarks. There were many Auxiliary corps, like the Civil Service Volunteers and the Post Office Volunteers, who were most efficient: were they to be called up immediately a Proclamation was issued? Were the Woolwich Arsenal Volunteers and the Sheffield Volunteers, in his own constituency, who were skilled artisans and mechanics, to be called up? There were large numbers of Volunteers in the iron and steel foundries of Sheffield, but upon the outbreak of war it would be impossible for them all to be called up for six months' training if the country were to have the shot and shell necessary to carry on a campaign. What steps had the right hon. Gentleman taken to meet this difficulty in regard to the large number of Volunteers in Sheffield? He thought they were entitled to some explicit declaration from the Government upon the matter. If the right hon. Gentleman had not quite made up his mind upon the subject, perhaps he would consent to postpone the clause and bring it up again on some future occasion, when he could lay before the House the definite intentions of the Government. As the matter now stood, many corps were threatened with immediate disbandment.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said he quite recognised the importance of the debate and the subject they were considering, but there were other subjects they would like an opportunity of discussing which affected them as individuals. One subject upon which they felt very strongly was the question of courts-martial. That was considered by the Labour Party to be a very serious matter, and he appealed to the Committee to allow the division on the subject under discussion to be taken in order that they might devote the remaining time at their disposal to the important subject of courts-martial.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said the objections advanced by the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield applied in greater degree to the Volunteer Force as at present established. He could not understand those who wanted compulsory service objecting to the clause, because it was a step in the direction of systematising the Auxiliary Forces; and he could not understand those who were against compulsory service objecting to it, because it was a step which ought to obviate the necessity of going farther on that road. He could not understand the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon saying that the clause was only a make-believe. He challenged comparison of this proposal with anything introduced by the right hon. Gentleman or his predecessor in office.

MR. WYNDHAM said that by this Bill they were asking the Volunteer force to take the place of the Militia, and that fact marked the fundamental fallacy underlying the Bill. Having done away with the Militia, they had to make the Volunteers ready to take part in war if any part of the Reserve were called out; but the Secretary of State had admitted that very considerable sections of them could not be called out at all. In the past they had always relied for immediate actual military service upon the Regular Army, with something to support it like the Militia and the Yeomanry. There were now only two courses open—either universal compulsory service or fostering the Militia and the Yeomanry and forces of that description. To turn the Volunteers into a kind of sham

Militia was a false policy, and could never succeed.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said he now heard for the first time that large deductions of the very best men had to be made from the 300,000 men who would be called out when wanted. That fact ought to be put prominently before the country. Under this scheme they were diminishing the number and quality of the force, and it was only fair to the Committee and to the country that it should be clearly understood that what was being proposed was not 300,000, but that number minus about 40,000 of the best men.

MR. HALDANE said the substance of the matter was that the right hon. Gentleman thought they ought to keep a certain number of men who could not possibly be available if the force were brought out. They were comparatively a small fraction. The people engaged at Woolwich should not be enrolled in time of war; they would be required for other purposes. In the great industrial centres the good sense and the patriotism of the employers would have to be brought to bear to determine who could and who could not go. The procedure of the clause was very simple. The control of Parliament over these things was provided for, and it was not in the least likely that the powers would be used unreasonably.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the right hon. Gentleman had misunderstood the point he desired to make. It was no answer to say that the late Government proposed to create an Army Reserve, all of whom would have to go into civil life and come out again to take service in the Army. Everybody knew the liability of these men, and they were not engaged in the great industries which had been referred to. The hon. Member for the Eastern Division of Edinburgh had asked what the late Government had done to provide for the expansion of the Army in War. He would give him an immediate answer. They had taken practical steps to create an Infantry Reserve of 140,000 men to stand between the country and the necessity of embodying the Volunteer Force. In 1900 the whole of the Army Reserve was embodied. Did the hon. Member mean that it would have been desirable or was necessary at that time to call out the whole of the Volunteer Force for six months?

MR. MCCRAE said it would not have been necessary if the Government of the day had not prevented the Volunteers from volunteering.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there was only one war in which we had been engaged in which it could reasonably be said that this country was in danger of invasion, and yet the duty was to be imposed on the Government of calling out these men. They had had no answer to the simple question—what were to be the deductions from this Army? They were trusting the safety of the country to something the extent or value of which they had no power of measuring. He would like to put it on record that they had asked for a plain and simple statement of fact on a matter of the first importance regarding this Army on which the country was asked to spend £3,000,000, and they were unable to get any satisfactory answer.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said there was another important matter which had been overlooked. They were led to understand that the Territorial Army would be embodied, on the outbreak of hostilities, for six months. Was that six months' limit still maintained by the Government, or was the embodiment to be for four or five years after the outbreak of war? The Government were asking for 300,000 men at so much a day to undergo preliminary training, and on the outbreak of war to be trained further for six months; but in the clause there was no limitation as to how long the Territorial Forces would be required to serve after that period. There was another point which had escaped attention. If, on the outbreak of war, there was not a sufficient staff of signallers and engine drivers to be drawn upon from the Volunteers, the right hon. Gentleman would have to turn round to the railway companies, and appeal to them for an efficient staff. But none of those men would have any knowledge of the conditions of a soldier's life. They would not come under the civil authorities, but under military officers, and being utterly unacquainted with military discipline and the severity of military law, they would be at a great disadvantage. He thought that the Secretary of State for War should seriously consider the desirability of obtaining that desirable class of recruits for his Territorial Forces. At present there was no encouragement for training that class of railway men

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 275; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 213.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan

Captain Craig

Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.

Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H
Holden, E. Hopkinson

Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas G.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradfo'd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A,
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewellyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)

Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W,
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras, E.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareh'm
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Neild, Herbert
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards,T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild,Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield,Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George R.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset. W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being after half-past ten of the clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions on the Amendments moved by the Government, of which notice had been given, and the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Clause 19, drafting Amendment agreed to.

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 214.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,R'mf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. W. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.

Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc.)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn's-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, EdmundG.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lever, A.Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Charles N.(Donc'st'r
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D(Colchester)
Philipps, J.Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechadel)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbu'y
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(S'mers't, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampt'n
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, JohnHenry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Alden, Percy
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt.Hn.G.(Winchester
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Collins,SirWmJ.(St.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F,W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.)
Lee,ArthurH. (Hants.,Fareham
Lehmann, R.C.
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,JohnFrederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards,T.F. (Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield,SirBerkeleyGeorge D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Steadman, W C.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker,Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward,John(Stoke upon Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Arthur Henderson and Mr. George Roberts.

Clause 20:—

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 314; Noes, 106. (Division List No. 215.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry,RedmondJ.(Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William

Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Craie, George
M'Kenna, Rt.Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,SirW. D. (Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea,Walter Russell(Scarboro'
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,SirC.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt.Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J.(Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.

Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J.D.(Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry(Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palme
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt. Hn. G(Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James(Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison(York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest(Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement(Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seddon, J.
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clauses 21 and 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 152. (Division List No. 216.)

AYES.

Abraham, William(Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan

Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar,John A.(Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon, Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert,Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold(Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W.(Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Lief (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King,Alfred John(Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes,SirGeorge(Swansea)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,SirW.D.(Colchester)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,SirC.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw,Charles Edw.(Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley(Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D.(Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry(Halifax)
Whittaker,Sir ThomasPalmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen

Williamson, A.
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W.(St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Alden, Percy
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury,SirFrederickGeorge
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring,Capt.Hn.G(Winchester
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie,H.T.(Londonderry,N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Clynes, J. R.
Coates,E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon.Thos.H. A. E.
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalyrmple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison(York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest(Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law,Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareh'm
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Londsale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Maddison, Frederick
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson,Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Grady, J.
Parker,Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild,Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield,Sir Berkeley GeorgeD.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E.Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker,Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent,Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley,Rt.Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause 24, drafting Amendment agreed to.

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 269 ; Noes, 143. (Division List No. 217.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wiliam (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)

Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire, Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hn. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)

Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Wier, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt. Hn. G. (Winchest'r
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Ed'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Maddison, Frederick
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Edmund Talbot and Lord Balcarres.

Whereupon the CHAIRMAN left the Chair to make his Report to the House. Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty-three minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 6th June, 1907.

BARON HOOD.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Grosvenor Arthur Alexander Baron Hood of Catherington, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland, has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

London and North-Western Railway Bill.—A petition of Messrs. Martin and Leslie, of 27, Abingdon Street, Westminster, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Middlesex County Council, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93, for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered on Monday next, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—The Order made yesterday for the commitment of the Bill, discharged.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Committed for Tuesday next.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Committed.

The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

Canal Toll and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Oregon Mortgage Company Limited, Order Confirmation Bill.—To be read 3^a on Monday next.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Craven be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Viscount Ridley; read, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report and papers relating to the training of teachers, for the year 1905–1906.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Statistical tables for the year 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The Lords following were named of the Select Committee—

L. Muskerry.
L. Ellenborough.
L. Ampthill.
L. Montagu of Beaulieu.
L. Brassey.
L. Joicey.

the Committee to meet on Monday the 17th instant, at Twelve o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

LORD PLYMOUTH AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

*THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH: My Lords, I ask the indulgence of the House for a few moments in order to make a personal explanation with regard to a paragraph which appeared in a Paper recently issued by the Government referring to allotments and small holdings. I should like first of all to apologise to the House for not having been in my place on either of the two occasions when this question was raised by my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition. On the first occasion I was out of England, and on the second I had a long-standing important engagement in the country, and so was unable to be here. Therefore it is that I ask your Lordships' indulgence to refer to the matter now by way of a personal explanation.

The paragraph in this Paper to which I allude was extracted from an appendix to the Minutes of Evidence which were given before the Committee presided over by my noble friend the Chairman of Committees, Lord Onslow. It appears at the top of page 13 of the Memorandum, and is as follows—

APPENDIX No. XII.

Report on the visit to various Small Holdings in Worcestershire, &c.

They (*i.e.* the Nail Makers at Catshill in Worcestershire) endeavoured to obtain land from a neighbouring landowner, but a rule on the estate was not to let more than a quarter of an acre to labourers; that was found insufficient.

What is the natural inference from that? I think the natural inference to be drawn from that statement is that a landowner in Worcestershire declined to cut up his lands into small holdings, and, moreover, made it a rule on his estate not to let more than one quarter of an acre to labourers.

The facts, briefly, are these. First of all I find on investigation that this application for land by the gentleman who gave the evidence occurred in 1889, or thereabouts, no less than eighteen years ago, so that it cannot be called up-to-date evidence. In the second place, it had no reference whatever to the whole of my estate, where I may say holdings have for a long time been encouraged, and are still encouraged but it referred specifically to an isolated small piece of land, thirty-two acres in extent, at Catshill, inhabited by nailmakers, whose industry, I am sorry to say, is a decaying one. There was, and has been for a long time, a large demand for garden allotments, and, in order to accommodate the greatest number of applicants possible, I have no doubt that in 1889 or thereabouts the answer was given to this gentleman that it had been found desirable on this particular piece of land of thirty-two acres to limit the size of holdings to a quarter of an acre. For fifteen years past, however, there has not only been no such rule on the estate, but there has been no limitation whatever on the thirty-two acres of land. On this piece of land there are now sixty-three tenants with holdings varying, I believe, from a quarter of an acre to three acres, by far the largest number holding a quarter of an acre, as it has been my policy to accommodate as many applicants as possible.

It is clear from these facts that if this case has any application at all in the present discussion and in the discussions that have taken place—and I confess I think it is a very remote one—it tells in exactly the opposite direction from that which is given to it in the Paper. It should, I think, really be quoted as evidence that a certain landowner in Worcestershire declined to allow his land for small holdings to be entirely absorbed by a few persons. We have been told that no attack upon landlords as a class was intended, but, in spite of this assurance, I am quite unable to persuade myself that the Worcestershire landowner whom I personify has not been very unfairly treated in this instance. My noble friend the Lord President of the Council—I am sorry the noble Earl is not now in his place, but I think I am referring correctly to what he said—protested against the Government being accused of unfairness in the compilation of this Paper; but I do think I have very good ground of complaint of the manner in which this extract has been made use of. An obscure portion of a paragraph of an appendix to a Blue-book was taken out in order, it appears, to justify a statement that had already been made, but I protest against this having been done and a Worcestershire landowner being pilloried in this way without any further investigation.

It is perfectly true that I am not mentioned by name, but that really has nothing whatever to do with the point. I have no objection whatever, nor has any noble Lord an objection, to being mentioned under these circumstances by name so long as the facts that are given are correct. I do not deny the accuracy of the evidence quoted. This gentleman may have asked at that time for more land than I was able to give him, but, after all, it is a common experience of us all to ask on some occasions for more than we can get. I think even His Majesty's Government know what it is to ask for more than they can get. I complain that this quotation as it stands in the Memorandum—and it is in very much larger type in this Paper, I may say in passing, than in the Blue-book from which it is extracted—set out with some pomp and circumstance, is exceedingly misleading and inaccurate; I complain that it is evidence eighteen years old, and therefore not up to date, and I submit that if it has any application at all in the discussion with regard to small holdings and allotments it tells in exactly the opposite direction from that which is given to it in this Memorandum. I thank the House for the indulgence they have accorded me in allowing me to make this personal statement.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, I am, of course, responsible for all that appeared in the Blue-book to which the noble Earl has referred, and more particularly for the appendix from which this extract has been made. It is a report of a visit which I made, in company with other members of the Committee, to these particular small holdings in Worcestershire; and I think it shows how hard up His Majesty's Government must have been for evidence to support their case that they should have extracted this particular isolated paragraph. All that was said was that Mr. Ambrose Waldron, one of the tenants, and formerly a nailmaker, had stated—his evidence of course, could not be tested—that—

> "they had endeavoured to obtain land from a neighbouring landowner, but a rule on the estate was not to let more than a quarter of an acre to labourers; that was found insufficient."

When I saw the quotation I wrote at once to the Chairman of the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee of the Worcestershire County Council, Mr. Frank Smith. Mr. Smith was returned as a member of that council expressly on the platform that he would do all he could to obtain small holdings for these nailmakers, and I venture to say that if there is one county council in the whole of England that does not need the ginger which His Majesty's Government propose to apply to the county councils it is the Worcestershire County Council, and more particularly can this be said of the chairman of the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee of that council. Mr. Frank Smith sent me a reply, from which I will read to your Lordships an extract—

> "They were put out as allotments, some of them, I think, as little as plots of one-eighth of an acre. This portion was put out by the present Earl's grandmother, Baroness Windsor, many years ago. It was and still is the cheapest allotment land in the neighbourhood. I do not think the rents have ever been increased since they were first fixed, when allotments were not as valuable as they are now, nor so much thought of. I am speaking of thirty to thirty-five years ago, perhaps longer. The Birmingham market was very different then from what it is now, as well as the whole of our neighbourhood."

I leave it to your Lordships to judge as to how far this justifies the statement that there has been in all parts of the country a "blank denial" of land to those who sought it.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, I have only one or two words to say in reply to the speeches we have just heard, as I believe there is nothing before the House at the present moment. I must express regret that the letter from Mr. Frank Smith was not put into our hands previously, in which case there would have been no reason to put the information in question in the Memorandum.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: The letter was the outcome of what appeared in the Memorandum.

EARL CARRINGTON: With the information now available I must honestly say that I think the noble Earl, Lord Plymouth, was quite justified in bringing the case before the House and making the statement to which we have listened. I do not think I need go again into the question of the alleged attack on landlords, the House having already generously accepted the statement of my noble friend the Leader of the House, who said that no attack was intended on landlords as a class. I am quite sure my right hon. friend Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had no intention whatever of attacking landlords. I will read to the House, from *Hansard*, what the noble Earl the Lord Chairman of Committees said, on 25th April, in the debate on small holdings which was initiated by the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition. The noble Earl then said—

> "The document deals with the Report of my Committee, and quotes this extract from my report on a visit to the small holdings in Worcestershire, viz. :—'the men endeavoured to obtain land from a neighbouring landowner, but a rule on the estate was not to let more than a quarter of an acre to labourers.'"

That is not my statement. That is the statement of my noble friend the Chairman of Committees. The noble Earl proceeded—

> "I do not wish to mention names, but I may say that that landlord is Lord Plymouth. The ruling referred to is well known on the estates of many of your Lordships, but it does not follow from that that my noble friend Lord Plymouth was unwilling to let land in larger portions for small holdings on other parts of his estate."

Nobody has ever said that the noble Lord was unwilling. The only thing I quoted, and I accept the entire responsibility for it, was the statement of my noble friend the Chairman of Committees that the rule on the estate was not to let more than a quarter of an acre to labourers. I honestly think I was justified in bringing forward that evidence, which I thought was pretty strong evidence, and which had been already included in a Parliamentary publication on the authority of the Chairman of the Small Holdings Committee, who went down accompanied by two of his colleagues and got the information himself at first hand. Nobody regrets more than I do that there should be any unfair accusation against any Member of your Lordships' House, and I protest against any charge being made against the Government that we have in any way strained anything or tried to take an unfair advantage against any noble Lord.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I should like to ask the noble Earl a question, but if he wishes for notice I shall be glad to repeat it another day. It is whether, having regard to the discussion of the other day, the personal explanation to-night, and the statement the noble Earl has made, he will not now favourably consider the propriety of issuing an amended copy of his Memorandum which will give not, as he says, an *ex parte* statement, but a complete statement of the facts in question.

EARL CARRINGTON: I have answered that question before and my answer must be the same as before.

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES BILL [H.L].

Order of the Day read for resuming the debate on the Motion for the Second Reading.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, having moved the adjournment of the debate the other day I wish to say a word or two with reference to the Memorandum which has been laid on the Table and for which I asked. This Memorandum, I presume, is intended as an explanation of the contents of the Bill, but I would call the attention of the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, who is responsible for the Memorandum, to the fact that it does not correctly represent the contents of the Bill. It is stated in this Memorandum that—

> "Any Provisional Order will require confirmation by Parliament, and the parties interested in the river will therefore, in addition to the consideration of their views by a Government Department, have as a further protection the right to petition against the Order and appear before a Committee."

From that, of course, one would naturally suppose that the Provisional Order would have to be presented, and that the parties objecting would have an opportunity of being heard, but that is not what is in the Bill. If your Lordships will look at Clause 4 of the Bill you will see that it provides that—

> "The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, if they consider that a *prima facie* case is made out by the applicants for the making of an order under this Act, shall hold a local inquiry (of which due notice shall be given) by an inspector or other officer of the Board, who shall report the result of his inquiry to the Board, and they, if satisfied of the propriety of making an order, shall prepare a draft, and shall once in each of two successive weeks notify the making of the draft order in some newspaper in general circulation within the area to which the draft relates, and the notification shall specify the place where copies of the draft can be inspected and obtained, and the time within which and the manner in which notices of objection to the draft are to be sent to the Board. The Board may, if they think it expedient, hold a local inquiry—

that is a second local inquiry—

> "by an inspector or other officer of the Board with respect to any objections made to the draft order, and shall, after considering all such objections, and the report of the officer who held the inquiry (if any) thereon, settle the order."

That gives to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries absolute power to settle the Order in any way it likes. Clause 5 of the Bill proceeds—

> "The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries may submit to Parliament for confirmation any provisional order made by them in pursuance of this Act."

Then it is provided by Subsection (2) that if, while the Bill confirming any such Order is pending in either House of Parliament, a petition is presented against any Order comprised therein, the Bill, so far as it relates to such Order, may be referred to a Select Committee. But a person objecting to the Provisional Order will have absolutely no power in the matter. In the first place it rests with the Board itself as to whether a Provisional Order is introduced at all, and if it is introduced, the Board *may* place it before Parliament and Parliament *may* appoint a Select Committee. The noble Earl will see that that is entirely different from what is stated in the Memorandum. I merely call attention to this now because in Committee, if nobody else does, I shall move the insertion of words to put that right.

EARL CARRINGTON: I think I can explain the matter to the noble Earl. The Bill will work in this way. Under Clause 3 there is an application to the Board for a Provisional Order. Then comes a local inquiry, which is followed by the preparation and deposit of the draft of the Provisional Order by the Board, thereby affording opportunity for objection. Then there is a further local inquiry, if necessary, to consider objections.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: But it is permissive.

EARL CARRINGTON: After that there is the completion of the Provisional Order and its submission to Parliament. Of course, if any objection is lodged the same procedure is followed as usually applies to opposed private Bills. I have spoken to the draftsmen on the point raised by the noble Earl. Though it is a little difficult to understand, if there is a Provisional Order the people concerned will be protected in exactly the same way as in ordinary cases. The provision that the Board may submit a Provisional Order to Parliament for confirmation secures that if they do submit a Provisional Order the parties are protected in exactly the same way as in ordinary cases.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: But supposing they do not?

EARL CARRINGTON: There is nothing new in this. It works out exactly on the old lines. But if the word "shall" were substituted for the word "may," as the noble Earl wishes, it would be compulsory to have a Provisional Order in all cases.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Then the statement in the Memorandum is not correct?

EARL CARRINGTON: Yes, it is perfectly correct.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Then I do not understand it, but I will raise the point when we reach the Committee Stage.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

House adjourned at Five o'clock,
to Monday next, a quarter
before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 6*th June*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [Lords]. Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—Bristol Corporation Bill, Burnley Corporation Bill, without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dalziel, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petitions against; From Earlestown; Everton (two); Holt Green; Knowsley; Rainford; Scarisbrick; Seaforth; and Sefton; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Alves; Cawdor; and Paddington; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against; From Elmswell; Ely; Lee; Truro; and Yeovil; to lie upon the Table.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).

Petition from Birmingham, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report and Papers relating to the Training of Teachers for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Copy presented, of Statistical Tables for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3814 and 3815 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Public Health Bill.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): To ask the Prime Minister if, in consequence of the importance to local authorities in framing their Bills for next session, he will facilitate the passing into law as speedily as possible of the Public Health Bill [No. 66].

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*) No undertaking can be given at present about this Bill; but the Government are quite alive to its importance.

Shortage of Engine-Room Artificers.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the total number of engine-room artificers short of those required for manning the ships of the various Fleets, and the reason those returning from foreign service are being asked to give up part of the leave usually granted to such men for recuperation.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There is no shortage of engine-room artificers, the numbers now borne being sufficient to man the present war Fleet. Nothing is known of any engine-room artificers having been asked to give up their leave on return from foreign service. Two engine-room artificers in H.M.S. "Drake," of the second cruiser squadron, on that ship paying off recently, were asked if they would like to give up their leave for instruction in turbines, for which two engine-room artificers were required at the time, and for which these two men were specially suitable. The inquiry was made in the interests of the chief petty officers themselves as well as of the service, and they voluntarily accepted the offer, naming their own date for commencing instruction.

Salmon Fisheries Sold by Woods and Forests Department.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can state the number, if any, of salmon fishings that have been sold in Scotland by the Woods and Forests Department, and the prices obtained for such fishings.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that the total number of sales is forty-nine, and the total purchase money £32,550.

Pension of Sir J. Bampfylde Fuller.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state at what age Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller retired, how many years he was in the service, and the pension he receives.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Sir J. Bampfylde Fuller retired at the age of fifty-two, after a service of upwards of thirty years. He receives the ordinary annuity of a member of the Indian Civil Service who resigns after twenty-five years' service, viz., £1,000.

Report on Riots at Comilla.

MR. O'GRADY: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Report of the second inquiry into the riots at Comilla is yet completed; and, if so, will the Report be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have received a Report on the riot which took place at Comilla on the 6th March last. The riot resulted in several cases, which were tried in open court and the proceedings published in the Press. I do not think it necessary to lay the Report on the Table.

Sale of the Estate of the Misses Cooper.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that negotiations for sale and purchase as between the Misses Cooper and the tenants on the Knocklong property, in county Limerick, have been for a long time in progress; have the results of those negotiations been placed before the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, with what results; have Thomas Barry and John M'Grath, evicted tenants on this estate, been as yet reinstated in their farms, or have the Estates Commissioners sent an inspector to make inquiries in regard to their reinstatement; and what were the recommendations of the inspector, if he has carried out his mission.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that proceedings for the sale of this estate were instituted before them in March last, but the case will not reach its turn to be dealt with for a considerable time. The Commissioners have directed their inspector to inquire into the applications of the two evicted tenants referred to, but the inspector's report has not yet been received.

Sale of Estate of Mr. Stafford Delmege.

MR. LUNDON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he say how matters in regard to sale and purchase stand at present between Mr. Stafford Delmege and his tenants on the lands of Garryspillane, Glenbrohane, and the other townlands adjacent to Knocklong, county Limerick; can he say does any person hold from the agents, the Messrs. Sanders, of Charleville, a tenancy on the 145 acres on the Garryspillane side of the property, apparently untenanted, and, if so, what is his name and what is the nature of his tenancy, whether judicial or on the eleven months' system; are the smaller tenancies, about eleven in number, established about two years since, merely tentative and conditional, or are they on judicial rents; and how are matters in general between the owners and the tenants.

MR. BIRRELL: Purchase agreements in respect of thirty holdings on this estate were lodged with the Estates Commissioners in April last. The estate includes forty-eight acres of land described as being in the owner's hands, which it is proposed to sell as parcels. No purchase agreement has been lodged in respect of any holding of 145 acres. Twenty-five of the agreements lodged relate to judicial tenancies, and of these twelve were created since January, 1901. The Commissioners will inquire into all the circumstances of the estate before sanctioning the advances applied for.

Intimidation of Mr. Byrne, of Lusmagh.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the stock belonging to Mr. Byrne, of Lusmagh, Banagher, King's County, was driven off his farm on Friday, 31st May, by order of the local branch of the United Irish League; and whether the Government are taking any, and, if so, what steps to protect farmers in the King's County against intimidation.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The police authorities inform me that Mr. Byrne's cattle were driven off his farm on the date mentioned, but they have no knowledge that the United Irish League were concerned in the matter. The evidence in possession of the police is being examined with the view of considering whether a prosecution can be instituted for driving off the cattle. An extra force of police is stationed in King's County for the purpose of assisting in the preservation of the peace.

Disturbances in the Kilmore Districts.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, following up the recent prosecutions at Hillstreet, county Roscommon, for unlawful assembly and intimidation, for which eight Nationalists have been imprisoned, the magistrates who constituted the tribunal on that occasion are now subject to the most rigorous boycott; whether he is aware that all the servants of Mr. G. Kelly, B.L., who was chairman, have left his employment, Mr. H. Hamilton is subject to similar boycott, and Mr. R. N. Ffrench, who did not attend the court, is similarly treated, all his servants having left him; and whether, seeing that the Kilmore district is in a very disturbed state, he will say what precautions, if any, the Government are taking to preserve law and order.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received information to the effect that certain magistrates who attended the court at Hillstreet, county Roscommon, when there was a trial for unlawful assembly and intimidation, have been boycotted; under which class of boycott are these justices of the peace suffering, and what steps does he propose to take against the offenders.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I will at the same time answer the Question of the hon. Member for the Rye Division. The police authorities inform me that one of Mr. Kelly's indoor servants has left his employment and that several labourers have refused to work for him. One labourer has also left Mr. Hamilton's employment, but neither in his case nor in that of Mr. Ffrench, have the domestic servants left, as stated in the Question. One of these magistrates has been refused supplies in a local shop, but no other act of boycotting has occurred. Extra police are stationed in the districts in which these gentlemen reside, and every possible measure is being taken to preserve the peace and to protect the magistrates from loss and annoyance.

Shooting Outrage at Broadford, County Clare.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received any information from the police as to a shooting outrage at Broadford, in East Clare, which occurred on 23rd May, when the house of a farmer named Molony, living at Fermoyle, was fired into; whether any reason has been assigned for this crime; and whether the farmer has any police protection.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave yesterday to a similar Question relating to the same case.†

Disturbances in Ireland.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the publication of resolutions passed by branches of the United Irish League in Galway, Sligo, and Roscommon, naming certain persons as worthy of censure; whether such publication is calculated to intimidate those of His Majesty's subjects specified in the resolutions; and whether he will take immediate steps to prevent the publication of such resolutions in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The publication of resolutions such as the hon. Baronet refers to is a very old story in Ireland. Opinion differs considerably as to the amount of intimidatory effect produced by such publication, which, however, is none the less to be deprecated. It is not proposed to take any steps in the matter at present.

MR. JOHN RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 27th May three farms on the Ryan Estate at Thomastown were raided by a crowd consisting of several hundreds of persons; whether he will state the amount of damage then done, and how many constables were on duty to protect these estates; whether traders in the district who have hitherto supplied the police with goods have been threatened with the boycott; and whether any traders have on this account refused to supply goods to the police.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is the fact that a crowd of persons drove the cattle off the three farms mentioned, and took them in each case to the owner's residence. No injury was done to the cattle or the farms. The acts were witnessed by two policemen. Twelve persons have been prosecuted for the offence and returned for trial at the assizes. It is the case that several local traders have refused to supply the police with goods.

Outdoor Relief to Tenants of Union Cottages in Ireland.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that labourers in occupation of union cottages in Ireland are debarred from obtaining outdoor relief, even when incapacited by illness; and whether, in view of the suffering which the operation of this system sometimes inflicts upon labourers and their families, steps will be taken to enable boards of guardians to grant outdoor relief to the tenants of union cottages when necessity arises.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Occupiers of more than a quarter of an acre of land are debarred by statute from receiving poor law relief otherwise than in the workhouse. Labourers who occupy cottages with allotments come within the prohibitions. The relieving officer may, however, afford such persons relief in case of sudden and urgent necessity, and the guardians may admit them to the union hospital in cases of illness. The Local Government Board have been advised that the prohibition referred to applies only to the landholder himself, and therefore the members of such person's family, if sick and destitute, may be afforded outdoor relief. No amendment of the law of relief in favour of labourers is in contemplation.

Tenant Purchasers in County Meath.

MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have, in the exercise of the discretion vested in them under the Land Act of 1903, decided not to make any advance in excess of £3,000 to tenant purchasers; and how many applications for a greater amount have been refused to tenant purchasers in the county of Meath.

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† See page 687.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have not come to any general decision on the subject. Each application for an advance of more than £3,000 is dealt with upon its merits. One such application has been refused in county Meath.

Kilmeedy National Schools.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say on what grounds the approval which the Commissioners of National Education gave by letter, on 20th December, 1905, to the proposal of the manager of the national schools at Kilmeedy, county Limerick, for a building grant, has not been sanctioned by the Treasury; and whether, in view of the fact that the manager and parents of the children procured building materials at considerable expense on receipt of the Commissioners' approval of their proposals, and also in view of the fact that the average attendance in the boys' school is over forty, and in the girls' nearly sixty, he will take steps to acquire the grant for them without making it a condition that the schools be amalgamated.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of the National Education inform me that this case was not submitted to the Treasury, nor did they inform the manager that it would be submitted to that Department. Under the Commissioners' rules, in the case of applications for building grants for adjoining boys' and girls' schools, grants for separate schools cannot be made unless there is an average attendance of at least fifty pupils in each school. This condition is not fulfilled in the case in question, and the Commissioners are, therefore, unable to sanction a building grant for a new school-house except on condition that the schools shall be amalgamated.

Boycotting of Michael Brady.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the language used by His Honour Judge Drummond at Manorhamilton, on 21st May, when he said that Michael Brady, a person who is rigorously boycotted and has been the object of intimidation, was a nuisance and a pest to the country; and whether, having regard to the disturbed condition of the country where Brady lives, and to the effect which such a statement coming from a Judge on the Bench must have, he will endeavour to obtain an early day for the discussion of the Motion on the subject which stands in the name of the hon. Member for South Antrim,† or, if not, what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have communicated with the learned Judge upon the subject. He informs me that the matter which came before him on 21st May was an application for a special order to substitute service of a process. He refused that application, not upon the ground of the character of the plaintiffs or their father, but simply upon the ground that certain legal requirements had not been satisfied. In the course of the discussion between the Judge and the barrister who made the application the Judge referred to certain criminal proceedings which had come before him on a previous occasion, in the course of which proceedings it was shown that Brady was not a man of good character. The Judge informs me that he cannot recall the precise words which he used on the occasion, but he does not deny that they may have been to the general effect stated in the Question. There appears to be no doubt as to the fact that Brady's character is not satisfactory, but the police will continue to afford him full protection in the exercise of his legal rights, as they have done for some years past. The Government do not see any sufficient reason for taking special steps in regard to the Notice of Motion which stands in the hon. Member's name.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a person named Brady, who lives near Dowra, in the county of Leitrim, where he enjoys the privilege of police protection, is the cause of disturbance in that part of Leitrim; that Brady has been described by His Honour Judge Drummond, K.C., as a public nuisance, who is causing annoyance in a hitherto quiet and peaceful district; that, although he is frequently intoxicated, and has, in fact, been prosecuted for drunkenness by a policeman who is protecting him, yet he is allowed to carry firearms; that he has been recently convicted of driving his car while intoxicated over an old man, who was seriously injured; and whether steps will be taken by the Government to prevent Brady from continuing to disturb the peace in the county Leitrim.

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† A Motion for the appointment of a Select Committee "to inquire into the conduct of His Honour Judge Drummond in respect of the use by him, at Manorhamilton Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, 21st May, of language unbecoming in a Judge on the Bench."

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is the fact that Brady, who is a bailiff and the caretaker of evicted farms, receives police protection, and in the opinion of the police authorities this protection is necessary. I have just answered a Question relating to Judge Drummond's remarks about this man. It is the case that Brady has been convicted of drunkenness, and that the police who were protecting him were the prosecutors. He was also convicted of driving his car over an old man, but this conviction was reversed on appeal. The fact that Brady's character is not satisfactory would not justify the police authorities in withholding from him any protection that may be necessary.

MR. DOLAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the statement made by His Honour Judge Drummond, K.C., at Manorhamilton quarter sessions on 12th March, 1907, in which he described as wild exaggerations the accounts appearing in certain newspapers regarding the state of the county Leitrim, and said that, during the two years and a half that he had been Judge at eleven quarter sessions in Leitrim, there had been altogether only five criminal cases, and these of the most trivial character, white gloves being presented to him at each of the four sessions in 1905, and in January and March, 1907, and that he was not aware of any other county in the United Kingdom that is so free from crime; and whether, in view of this statement of the learned Judge regarding the peace of the county Leitrim, he will have the extra police stationed in the county withdrawn.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) According to the local newspapers the learned Judge made the statement attributed to him in the Question, but prefaced it by saying that he confined his observations to North Leitrim. It is the fact that a considerable part of the county is in a satisfactory condition, but there are other parts of it to which that remark would hardly apply, and in the opinion of the police authorities who are responsible for the preservation of the peace, the presence of extra police is necessary in those parts.

Yeomanry at Political Demonstrations.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the regulations for Yeomanry permit them giving military displays at political demonstrations; if so, are the troopers and non-commissioned officers paid, and by whom; and whether, in the event of any member refusing to attend, he can be penalised directly or indirectly by the commanding officer.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Yeomanry regulations do not permit military displays at political demonstrations.

Small-Bore Bullets.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the investigation into the relative efficiency of small-bore bullets of various shapes and patterns, with regard to muzzle velocity, low trajectory, and stopping power, is yet concluded; and whether, as a result of such inquiry, he proposes to adopt for the British service rifle a bullet different from that now in use.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The investigation referred to is not yet completed.

Lee-Enfield Rifle.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether experiments have recently been made to test the action of various explosives, giving high muzzle velocities, on the rifling of the Lee-Enfield rifle; and whether he is able to announce the results of such experiments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Trials with ammunition to give high velocities from various manufacturers are now in progress, and the effects of the explosives on the rifling of the Lee-Enfield rifle will in due course be ascertained. No results of experiments can at present be announced.

Ammunition for the Auxiliary Forces.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the issue to the auxiliary forces of ammunition of mixed sources of manufacture and date have been discontinued.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Since August last the various sources of manufacture have been kept separate. Ammunition completed prior to that date would be of mixed sources, and may have been recently issued to the troops.

Supernumerary Majors.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War how many appointments in provisional battalions have been offered to supernumerary majors who have hitherto served in infantry battalions now disbanded.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) One vacancy has occurred for a major. This was offered to all the majors of reduced battalions, who, with two exceptions, refused it. The two officers referred to made, however, certain conditions for accepting the appointment which could not be agreed to by this Department.

Rifle Back Sights.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the converted Lee-Enfield rifles, to be issued to the Auxiliary Forces, will be provided with back sights having screw adjustment for elevation and wind gauge.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The back sights of the converted long rifles will not have any screw adjustment for elevation. The pattern of adjustable wind gauge is still under trial.

War Department Land at Bexhill-on-Sea.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the result of the negotiations for the sale of War Department land at Bexhill-on-Sea.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This matter is about to be referred to arbitration.

War Department Mortgages.

MR. COURTHOPE: To ask the Secretary of State for War when the Bill will be introduced to confer statutory authority upon the War Office to vest mortgages transferred to that Department in the Secretary of State for War.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The legislation necessary to effect the purpose set forth in the Question will be secured by the inclusion of a clause in the annual Public Works Loan Bill. I am not aware of the date on which it may be proposed to introduce the Bill.

Cordite in India.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what proportion of the cordite now in possession of the War Office, exclusive of that in India, has been manufactured by Messrs. Kynoch, Limited.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I doubt whether it would be in the public interest to give this information.

Case of William Emberson.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmorland, Appleby): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that William Emberson, a private, was on Friday, 31st May, committed for trial at Portsmouth for shooting Charles Fred Beard, a private in the 2nd Middlesex Regiment; whether, at the inquest, Emberson admitted that he had been drinking heavily; whether the jury censured the military authorities for allowing cartridges in the barrack store-room, and also for serving drink from the canteen to soldiers in an intoxicated condition; and whether the War Office propose to take any, and, if so, what, steps to prevent such occurrences in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has been drawn to this case; but, having regard to the fact that Private Emberson has been committed for trial on a capital charge, it would not be proper for me to make any statement about the circumstances of the case at the present time. The case is being closely watched.

Official History of the South African War.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it has been decided to proceed no further with the preparation and publication of the official history of the war in South Africa beyond the volume now in the Press; and, if so, whether he will state the reasons for abandoning a work of so much public interest and importance.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The responsibility for the publication of the history has been transferred to the Committee of Imperial Defence, and the work is steadily proceeding.

Commercial Treaties.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affair when the Return, giving particulars of the most-favoured-nation treaties of foreign countries, moved for last session, will be issued.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The work involved in the preparation of this Return is very considerable, owing to the large number of treaties of this nature, all of which have to be checked. No time will be lost, but I am afraid I cannot at present specify any date at which it will be possible to complete it.

Medical Officers at Embassies.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state to how many of His Majesty's embassies and consulates medical officers or advisers are attached; what are the medical and surgical qualifications required of candidates for such posts; and what are the salaries and conditions of service attached to each of them.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The salaries and allowances provided for medical officers are given in the Estimate for Diplomatic and Consular Services under the names of the various posts. The officers are duly qualified practitioners, and those who receive allowances are usually selected on the spot. The following are the principal medical posts:—

Constantinople	£700
Peking	£650 to £700
Alexandria	£500
Tokio	£350
Tehran	£600
Bangkok	£250
Zanzibar	£400

Quarters are provided at Peking and Tehran. Officers who take private practices are not pensionable.

Transvaal Land Settlement Schemes.

MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the total expenditure charged against the British Exchequer for land settlement schemes in the Transvaal up to the moment of responsible government being established there; and what was the number of cultivating settlers, of holdings, and the total acreage of land so occupied.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The expenditure on land settlement in the Transvaal has been charged against the proceeds of the guaranteed loan and not against the British Exchequer. No later statistics have been received than those which are printed at page 91 of Cd. 3028, of which Paper I am sending a conveniently-marked copy to my right hon. friend.

Slavery on the Zanzibar Strip.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the approximate estimate of cost submitted to the Treasury for the abolition of the legal *status* of slavery on the Zanzibar strip.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) An approximate estimate of £40,000 has been received by telegram from the Governor of the East African Protectorate, but, pending the receipt of his full Report by mail, this sum can only be regarded as provisional.

State-aided Land Purchase in Scotland.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state whether it is the general practice in Scotland, before sanctioning the purchase of holdings with State aid, to fix the then fair rents of the holdings and calculate the purchase prices on those rents; the total number of holdings purchased in Scotland with State aid down to 31st March, 1907; the average number of years purchase of rent agreed to be paid for them; the number of these holdings in respect of which arrears of purchase annuities were then due; the total amount of the annuities; and the total amount of the arrears.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The general practice is as the hon. Member indicates. The total number of holdings purchased in Scotland with State aid down to 31st March, 1907, was eighty-seven. The number of years purchase of rent runs from seventeen and-a-half to twenty, according to price paid by the Board. The number of holdings in respect of which the arrears of purchase annuities were due at 31st March, 1907, is eighty-two. The total amount of the annuities payable up to that date is £2,958 2s. 5d., and the total amount of the arrears £753 11s. 6d.

Board of Trade Labour Correspondent.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether Mr. Burnett, chief labour correspondent to the Board, is retiring from that position; and, if so, what steps have been taken to fill the vacancy caused by his retirement.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) I regret to say that Mr. Burnett will shortly retire from the service of the Board of Trade. The question of appointing a successor is receiving careful consideration.

Bankruptcy Delays.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the practice of the registrars in bankruptcy in repeatedly postponing applications for receiving orders in the case of persons against whom petitions in bankruptcy have been presented, and to the fact that the interval between the bankruptcy petition and the receiving order has, in recent cases, often amounted to many months and sometimes to more than a year; and, in view of the inconvenience caused by this delay, not only to creditors but to third persons with whom the respondent to the bankruptcy petition may carry on business and against whom he may institute litigation, he can see his way to take steps to ensure in such cases a more prompt administration of justice.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) I understand that the practice of adjourning the hearing of petitions in bankruptcy from time to time is still very common, notwithstanding Rules 168 and 169 of the Bankruptcy Rules, 1886 and 1890. The question of further restricting such adjournments will be considered when the opportunity occurs.

Westbourne Park Railway Service.

MR. HORNIMAN (Chelsea): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the direct service from Westbourne Park Station to Victoria was discontinued long before the electric service was installed; and whether he will state why through booking was discontinued, as it is possible to complete the journey between the two points by changing carriages and rebooking at Addison Road.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade have invited the observations of the railway companies concerned upon the points raised by my hon. friend, and will communicate with him upon receipt of the companies' replies.

MR. HORNIMAN: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can induce the Great Western and other railways interested to establish a through service of trains between Paddington, Westbourne Park, etc., and Battersea, Chelsea, Clapham Junction, and Victoria, for the convenience of workmen and other members of the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade are in communication with the railway companies concerned in this matter, and will inform my hon. friend of the result.

Belfast Post Office Boy Messengers.

MR. J. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that eighteen boy messengers in the Belfast post office have been informed by the Postmaster-General that they must quit the service on 1st July next; that these boys are all of exemplary character, and have served from five to seven years as messengers; and whether, in view of the hardship which their dismissal will entail on the boys and their parents, he will endeavour to arrange that they shall be continued in some capacity in the employment of the post office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I dealt with this matter on the 4th instant in replying to a Question asked by the hon. Member for North Armagh.† I regret that, after reviewing all available courses, I cannot but conclude that it is to the interest of these boys to seek other employment.

Belfast Post Office—Messenger Room.

MR. J. DEVLIN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the unsanitary condition of the premises in which the messenger boys employed at the Belfast post office are given military drill; whether the boys have been given to understand that they cannot receive promotion to the rank of postman until they have first served in the Army; if so, whether this is due to a determination on the part of the Government to make the Post Office a recruiting ground for the Army; and, if so, what action he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have made inquiry in regard to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, and cannot learn that any suggestion has ever been made to the effect that the premises in which the boy messengers at Belfast are drilled are in an unsanitary condition. None of the messengers have been advised to enlist in the Army, and it is certainly not my intention to make the post office a recruiting ground for the Army. At the same time the boys know, no doubt, under a long-standing arrangement with the War Office, that ex-soldiers obtain nearly half the vacant places for postmen.

Strabane Telegraph Clerk's Illness.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Strabane, Ireland, who was seized with serious illness on 16th April last, was accused of malingering by the postmaster of that town, who absolutely refused to allow him to enter a hospital to which his family desired to send him; if he can say under what circumstances the postmaster and medical officer insisted on the man remaining in lodgings in Strabane till the 27th of April, when the surveyor had to be communicated with by wire by the friends of the patient, who is still lying seriously ill in hospital at Belfast; and whether, in view of these facts, he will have full inquiry made into the whole circumstances of the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am making inquiry, and will communicate with the hon. Member.

Poor Law Expenditure.

MR. SUMMERBELL: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that the inspector of Poor Law District No. 3 has recently issued to the Boards of Guardians in his district a paper headed, Table showing the number of paupers on 1st January 1897 and 1907, and the expenditure upon relief for the year ended Michaelmas 1906, and that instead of showing the expenditure on relief it only shows the expenditure on the two items, out-relief and in-maintenance, and omits altogether the salaries, rations, and superannuations of the officers and servants, principal of loans repaid and interest thereon, cost of furniture, repairs to building and furniture, and some other items of the cost of relief; if so, will he state what is the expenditure on the omitted items for the Birmingham Union in the above district; whether it has been usual for the Poor Law inspector's half-yearly returns to make the same omissions as the above-mentioned return does; and whether the President will, in future, either arrange that these returns shall give the true cost of relief or discontinue them altogether.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have seen the table referred to, which I understand is in the form which the inspector has been accustomed to use. It is intended to give particulars as to the cost of the maintenance of indoor paupers and of outdoor relief, and not the total expenditure of the guardians as a poor law authority. The expenditure of the guardians of the parish of Birmingham in respect of all poor law purposes in the year ended at Michaelmas 1906 was as follows:—

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† See pp. 491-2.

	£
Maintenance of indoor paupers	42,393
Outdoor relief	7,151
Maintenance of lunatics in asylums, etc.	28,169
Salaries, etc., and superannuation allowances of officers and servants	33,436
Principal of loans and interest thereon	14,491
Other expenditure connected with the relief of the poor	15,141

Some of this information was not in the possession of the inspector at the time the table was issued, and it will be observed that much of the expenditure shown is not of a character which can be controlled by the present guardians. Provided that it is understood that, as regards expenditure, the table only gives particulars relative to the maintenance of indoor paupers and out-relief, I see no objection to it. It may be well that the heading of the table should be so framed as to leave no possible room for doubt as to the nature of its contents, and I will communicate with the inspector on this point.

Criminal Appeals—Shorthand Notes.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether it is intended, under the Criminal Appeal Bill, that a shorthand report of all evidence in the trial of indictable offences shall be taken, and also a shorthand report of the summing up of the Judges and chairmen in such cases; and, if so, whether any estimate has been made of the probable cost.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) Yes. It is intended that a shorthand note shall be taken in all cases; but that such parts only of such note be transcribed as may be ordered by the Court of Criminal Appeal. No estimate of cost has been made.

Artillery in India.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for India what is the number of batteries of horse, field, and mountain artillery, respectively, in the Indian Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) There are in India eleven batteries of Royal Horse Artillery, forty-five batteries of Royal Field Artillery, and eight batteries of Royal Garrison Artillery, Mountain Division. There are also ten Indian (Native) mountain batteries.

Forestry in Ireland.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the advantages and profit derived in continental countries from State forestry, and to the statement of the Secretary for India as to the forestry of India as a source of national asset and employment; and whether the Government will take up without delay the reafforestation of Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The attention of the Irish Government has been drawn to the matters referred to, and the question of afforestation in Ireland has received much consideration. I understand that the question has come before both the Royal Commission on Congestion and the Committee of Inquiry into the Department of Agriculture, and it would therefore seem desirable to await the Reports of both of these bodies before further considering the matter.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in the reign of William the Third, a Bill was passed making it compulsory to plant several thousands of trees annually in Ireland for twenty-one years, and that the local authorities were held responsible that this was carried into effect; and whether he will consider the advisability of re-introducing a similar measure, and provide the necessary funds from the Imperial Exchequer out of the amount due to Ireland from over-taxation and the appropriation to British purposes of the Irish Quit and Crown rents.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is the fact that an Act to the effect mentioned was passed in 1698 (10 Will. 3, c. 12), and I understand that during the eighteenth century some twelve further Acts on the subject were passed, but that they failed to prevent a decrease of timber in Ireland. As regards the suggestion contained in the latter part of the Question, I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which the Secretary to the Treasury gave to his Question on this subject on 10th April, 1906.†

Belfast Docks—Inspection of Imported Provisions.

MR. J. DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Leutenant of Ireland whether he can state what arrangements at present exist for the inspection of provisions imported at the Belfast docks; whether any complaints have been received as to the inadequacy of the inspection; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board are informed by the local authorities of Belfast that the port sanitary officer on duty each day inspects imported provisions, and frequently makes seizures of unfit provisions, and obtains magistrates' orders for their destruction. The Local Government Board have not received any complaints as to the inadequacy of the inspection. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, a special Commission is inquiring into the general sanitary administration of the city.

Exchequer Contributions for Ireland.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say why it is that the Exchequer contribution under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts is not given direct to the various district councils in Ireland entitled to it, so that it may be applied by them direct towards the repayment of the loans under the Labourers Acts; and whether, if that cannot be done, he will take steps to see that the county councils that receive it use it solely for that purpose.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) All Government contributions to rural district councils are distributed through the county councils, which are the rate-levying authorities, and are placed by them to the credit of the several rural districts entitled to receive them. It would be most inconvenient to adopt a different procedure with regard to the Exchequer contribution applicable towards repayment of loans under the Labourers Acts. The Local Government Board have no information that county councils divert the sums so remitted to them to purposes other than those for which they are intended.

Labourers Cottages Schemes.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say, when application for a labourer's cottage has been made, under the Labourers (Ireland) Act, by a labourer and rejected by the district councillors of the district at the first meeting of the council to consider applications, without giving the labourer an opportunity of being heard, what is the proper course to adopt that the labourer's application may be considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The representation made by a labourer to the rural district council contains the grounds on which his application is made. In the event of its rejection by the rural district council, the labourer may ascertain, either from the clerk or the councillor representing his division, for what reason his application was rejected. If the rejection should be due to some technical informality or to the labourer's omission to state the full grounds for making the application, it would be open to him to make a fresh representation to the rural district council with a view to their reconsidering his case.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Cordite for the Navy.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can give approximately the proportion of the whole supply of cordite in the Navy which was manufactured by Kynoch, Limited.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): I am informed that no figures are available to enable me to answer this Question with even approximate accuracy.

MR. BELLAIRS: Will the Government direct the immediate withdrawal of all cordite on board His Majesty's ships which contain mercuric chloride?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 1142.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I must have notice of that Question.

Totland Coastguard Station.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is proposed to abolish the Totland coastguard station in October next.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: This station comes within the scope of the pledge which I gave to the House on the 7th March.† The Admiralty have no intention of closing it.

Naval Victualling.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Report of the Departmental Committee on Victualling has now been considered; whether it is now proposed to make any, and, if so, what, changes in the naval victualling and canteen system; and whether it is proposed to publish the Report of this Committee.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Navy Vote 2 will be taken first on Tuesday next, and I propose then to make a full statement on this subject.

New Royal Yacht.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the upholstery work of the new Royal Yacht was supplied by Warings, of London; if a much lower offer was made by a Glasgow firm of upholsterers of high standing; if the higher offer was accepted by the ship builder on pressure of the Admiralty; and, if so, whether in future he will see that the lowest offer, if from a competent firm, will be countenanced by the Admiralty.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The upholstery of the Yacht generally is being carried out by the shipbuilders or their sub-contractors, except in the case of the apartments intended for the personal use of their Majesties, which are being furnished by Warings. They were selected for this part of the work on account of their experience in fitting up the "Victoria and Albert." No tender was invited and no offer received by the Admiralty for this work from any other firm of upholsterers. Under the contract the shipbuilders have nothing to do with the supply of upholstery for the Royal apartments.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Why take this exceptional course of not putting the work out to tender?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Because of the special experience of this firm.

MR. LEA: Have not other firms had similar experience?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No other firm has had the same experience.

Ships' Magazines.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether refrigerating machinery has already been ordered sufficient to equip the whole of the magazines of our fifty-one battleships, twenty-eight armoured cruisers, and seventy-six unarmoured cruisers, together with the plant for the ships now building; whether provision was made for all this plant in the Navy Estimates, and, if so, where; and whether he can state the estimated cost of fitting such refrigerating plant in the whole Navy or in the case of one battleship, such as the "Agamemnon."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: As regards the first part of the Question, I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Guildford on Tuesday.‡ No provision has been made in the Estimates, but if the expenditure during the current financial year cannot be met from surpluses, it will be provided for by a Supplementary Estimate in the usual way. As regards the last part of the Question, the cost of the plant alone in the case of the "Agamemnon" is £1,900; the cost of fitting cannot at present be stated.

Bengal Taxation.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of Bengal have yet arranged to relieve the Bengal agriculturists of the chow-kidari tax, a tax levied for the remuneration of village watchmen.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 1089.

‡ See page 479.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): I have ascertained from the Government of India that the Bengal Government has submitted to them proposals for improving the administration of the Act and reducing admitted inequalities of taxation. These proposals are under consideration.

Indian Tea Estates—Education of Children.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what steps are being taken to secure the education of children on tea estates in the Central Provinces and Madras respectively.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: There are no tea estates in the Central Provinces. In Madras the area under tea, according to the latest statistics, is only 7,934 acres, and I am not aware that any special measures are necessary to secure the education of children on this area.

Madras Ryots—Land Revenue Defaulters.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many ryots have been evicted in the Madras Presidency in default of payment of land revenue during each of the last five years; and what sum has been realised in each year through the sale of land previously in the occupation of the evicted ryots.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE:—

	Number of defaulting ryots whose land was sold.	Amount realised.
		£
1901–2	10,649	10,162
1902–3	7,756	8,912
1903–4	4,946	6,475
1904–5	4,215	6,201
1905–6	5,761	6,540

Eastern Bengal and Assam Schools.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the nature of the Report made by Captain Kennedy on estate schools for Eastern Bengal and Assam; and the name of the officer deputed to report on Bengal schools.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I have not seen Captain Kennedy's report; I have nothing to add to the Answer given on the 14th March last on the subject.† I do not know the name of the officer (if any) who is inquiring into the matter in Bengal, but nearly all the tea-gardens formerly under the Government of Bengal are now within the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and have been dealt with by Captain Kennedy.

Sales of Evicted Ryots' Holdings.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many acres of land, the property of evicted ryots, have been put up for auction by Government in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies respectively, in default of payment of land revenues during each of the five years ending 30th June, 1906.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The Madras figures are—

	acres.
1901–2 - - - -	45,712
1902–3 - - - -	30,583
1903–4 - - - -	23,383
1904–5 - - - -	23,018
1905–6 - - - -	26,369

The Bombay figures are—

	acres.
1901–2 - - - -	175
1902–3 - - - -	404
1903–4 - - - -	3,383
1904–5 - - - -	3,744
1905–6 - -	not yet received.

Bhola District Courts.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the fact that the sub-divisional officer attached to the Bhola district of India is irregular in regard to the holding of courts, and alters arrangements for holding a court without any public notice whatever, much to the inconvenience of suitors and witnesses, he will order an inquiry on the subject, with a view to the adoption of some more satisfactory system of holding courts in this district.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The Secretary of State caused inquiries to be made into the statements made in the Question asked by the hon. Member on the 21st February last† as to the alleged unpunctuality of the sub-divisional officer of Bhola in the Backergunj district, and have ascertained that these allegations were without foundation, and that the magistrate concerned (who is an Indian) is a zealous and hardworking officer.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 210.

Army Cordite Supply in India.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can inform the House what proportion of the cordite now possessed by the Army in India has been manufactured by Messrs. Kynoch, Limited.

MR. HOBHOUSE: There is no information available as to the proportion of cordite, manufactured by Messrs. Kynoch, now in store in India, but it is probably very small. Cordite is now manufactured at the Indian Cordite Factory, Aruvankad.

Fines in the Punjab.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether large sums of money were realised by officers of Government in the Cheerab Colony of the Punjab from the colonists on account of unauthorised fines; and whether it was one of the objects of the disallowed Colonisation Bill to legalise these fines and to deprive the civil courts of all jurisdiction in the matter.

MR. HOBHOUSE: The earlier agreements under which lands were granted in the Cheerab Colony made the tenancy liable to forfeiture if a breach of any condition was committed. In practice the colonisation officers allowed tenants to compound infractions of the conditions by payment of fines, and refrained from resorting to the extreme penalty of forfeiture. The later agreements expressly provide for fines as well as forfeiture. I am not aware that large sums have been thus realised. The Bill provided for the enforcement by means of fines of the conditions of tenancy in the Cheerab and other Colonies, in cases in which forfeiture would be an excessive penalty; it excluded the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in any matter which the revenue officer was empowered to dispose of, following the analogy of the Tenancy and Land Revenue Acts of the province, and it prescribed the procedure and system of appeal provided by those Acts.

SIR H. COTTON asked if the fines had not mounted up to ten lakhs of rupees?

MR. HOBHOUSE'S reply was inaudible.

Murder of Mr. Howorth at St. Petersburg.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information regarding the death of Mr. Edward Howorth, a British subject, who was shot in St. Petersburg last month; and whether the perpetrator of this outrage has been brought to justice.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): According to a report received from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, on 23rd May Mr. Edward Howorth, the manager of a private spinning factory at St. Petersburg, owned by Mr. Gerhardt, was shot from behind while examining some machinery in company with two workmen, on whom no suspicion rests. The wound unfortunately proved fatal. The police proceeded to the factory as soon as the news was communicated to them, and arrested a man who had recently had a disagreement with Mr. Howorth, and who was suspected of having fired the shot.

The Hague Conference.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British delegates at The Hague Conference will have power to adopt, on behalf of the British Government, the principle of the exemption of private property at sea from capture.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can make no statement on the subject, and would beg to refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave him on the 20th of March last.‡

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1015.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 848.

It is impossible to anticipate the discussions of the Conference by making public statements beforehand of the line which will be taken or the arguments used by the delegates of individual Powers?

*MR. REES: Is it equally impossible to assure this House that these matters will not be settled at the Conference?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I should think it is one of the matters which will be discussed.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the sittings of The Hague Conference will be held in public.

SIR EDWARD GREY: If the precedent of the Conference of 1899 is followed the sittings will not be held in public. But the matter is one for the Conference itself to settle when it meets.

Germany and Persia.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that the oil concessions made to a German syndicate by the Persian Government were adversely criticised by the Persian Parliament; and whether he can inform hon. Members who are interested in Persia what reliable sources of information, if any, are open to them regarding the important events which are understood to be taking place in that country.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government have no information that any oil concessions have been granted to a German syndicate by the Persian Government, and that they have been adversely criticised by the Persian Parliament. I am unable to suggest any sources of information open to hon. Members who are interested in Persia beyond those which are well known to everyone and at their disposal.

The Sugar Convention.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, when the next meeting of the Sugar Convention is to take place; whether an opportunity will then be afforded for His Majesty's Government to withdraw from the Convention in 1908; and, if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of adopting this course.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention will meet to-day. His Majesty's Government have intimated to the contracting States, through the Belgian Government, that they consider that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, whether by prohibition or by the imposition of countervailing duties, is inconsistent with their declared policy and incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar using manufacturers, and that consequently it will be impossible for them to continue to give effect to the provisions of the Convention requiring them to penalize sugars declared by the Permanent Commission to be bounty-fed. At the same time we have pointed out that we have no desire to give sugar bounties or to see a revival of such bounties, or to differentiate against beet or foreign sugars. Should the Governments of the contracting States consider that our views can only be met by the complete withdrawal of this country from the Convention, we would be prepared to give the necessary notice on the first possible date. We have, however, intimated that if the other contracting States prefer to exempt the United Kingdom by supplementary protocol from the obligation to enforce the penal provisions of the Convention, this would render it unnecessary for us to give notice of withdrawal.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanark, Govan): Are we right in understanding that the view of the Government is they disapprove of bounties, but will do nothing whatever to get rid of them?

SIR EDWARD GREY: If the hon. Member will study the Answer I have just given, I must leave him to draw his own inference.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) asked when the despatch would be laid on the Table of the House.

SIR EDWARD GREY said that he could not say when the despatch would be laid on the Table. The future action of the Government would depend on the view taken by other States of the despatch; but it would be convenient that the despatch should be laid on the Table after some conclusion was arrived at.

Lord BALCARRES asked whether it was not probable that no decision could be arrived at before the end of next year, and whether, in view of the uncertainty created by the right hon. Gentleman's answer, it was not desirable that the views of the Government should be made public promptly?

Sir EDWARD GREY said that the whole gist of the despatch was contained in the Answer he had given to the Question. If hon. Members wished to receive fuller information after studying the Answer additional questions might be asked.

Murder of Shanghai Policeman.

*Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will consider the claim of the relatives of the late Police Constable Morrow, who was shot dead, in the execution of his duty, at Shanghai, on or about 11th March, by armed Chinese robbers, who ran away into the country; and whether he will instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Pekin to approach the Chinese Government so that adequate compensation may be granted to the family of Mr. Morrow, who are in necessitous circumstances.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I regret that I can add nothing to the Answer given to the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh on the 13th ultimo on this subject.† And much as His Majesty's Government regret the facts disclosed in the Question, they cannot found a claim for compensation on a case which took place in a district policed, not by Chinese, but by the European municipality, and in which it does not appear that any Chinese official was in any way responsible.

*Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Is it not the case that the mob came from Chinese territory outside the European municipality, and retreated into Chinese territory? Am I right in assuming that it was a Chinese mob?

Sir EDWARD GREY: In this case I think the disturbance was caused by people residing in municipal territory. They were Chinese.

*Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY pressed the right hon. Gentleman to make further inquiry.

Sir EDWARD GREY: If the hon. Member will put a Question on the Paper I will inquire.

Mr. Abbott's Ransom.

*Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any answer has been received from the Turkish Government in reference to the repayment of the ransom for Mr. Abbott, who was captured by brigands near Salonica.

Sir EDWARD GREY: No answer has yet been received.

*Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman press for an answer?

Sir EDWARD GREY: It will be settled in time. These claims always take a certain time to settle.

The Upper Congo.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government has any information as to disquiet among the warlike population of the Upper Congo, and whether he can say to what the disquiet and opposition to the Government are due; if he can say whether the natives are well armed; and whether he has information which will enable him to estimate the number of rifles possessed by the 200,000 warriors of the Upper Congo.

Sir EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government have no information as to the alleged state of disquiet in the Upper Congo regions beyond what is contained in a Belgian newspaper. Our attention has been called to the existence of traffic in arms and ammunition, but it is impossible to state with accuracy the number or quality of the weapons which have been imported, or in whose possession they are now.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 626.

British Shipowners' Claims Against Russia.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will give the particulars of any claims of British shipowners, in respect of ships sunk, damaged, or delayed by the Russian Fleet or volunteer cruisers during the recent Russo-Japanese War, which are still outstanding; and if he will give the names of the ships involved.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The following are the vessels in respect of which compensation has been claimed from the Russian Government:—"Knight Commander," "Hipsang," "St. Kilda," "Ikhona," "Oldhamia." All the above vessels were sunk during the war. "Calchas," "Ardova," "Malacca," "Formosa," "Hsiping," "Chingping," "Fuping." The above seven steamers were seized and detained during hostilities, and subsequently released. Claims for compensation are now pending as regards all these vessels. I cannot without communication with the owners state the exact amounts.

Transvaal Loans.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what portion of the £35,000,000 Transvaal Loan, whether allocated by the late or the present Government, has been exclusively devoted to the British population and what portion exclusively to the Boer population.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I would refer the hon. Baronet to my written reply to him of the 16th May last, and also to my reply on 30th of May,† to which I am not able to add anything.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the special circumstances which distinguish the Transvaal at the present time from the other responsible self-governing Colonies which have induced the Imperial Government to guarantee a loan of £5,000,000 for the Transvaal; and whether it is part of the understanding upon which the guarantee is given that the Chinese coolies whose licences expire this summer shall be repatriated and that no licences shall be renewed.

MR. CHURCHILL: The special circumstances which distinguish the Transvaal from other responsible self-governing Colonies are to a large extent matters of history, but when the proper time comes to introduce the necessary Loan Bill in this House they will be fully examined and explained by the Minister responsible for that measure. For the second part of the Question I must refer the hon. Member to my Answer of Tuesday last and to the conversation which arose upon it.‡

SIR GILBERT PARKER: At what date will the Bill be introduced?

MR. CHURCHILL: No such Bill can be introduced until a similar measure has passed through both Houses of the Transvaal Legislature.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in the course of the negotiations with General Botha that led up to the promise that His Majesty's Government would ask Parliament to guarantee a loan of £5,000,000 to the Transvaal Government, any attempt was made to secure from General Botha an undertaking that His Majesty's Indian subjects would be treated at least as well as immigrant aliens from Southern and Central Europe.

MR. CHURCHILL: The question of the position of British Indians in the Transvaal was one of the matters which were discussed with General Botha; but the discussion had no connection with the promise given by His Majesty's Government that they would invite Parliament to guarantee the Transvaal Loan.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): Before the Government pledged themselves to give this guarantee, had any representations been made to them, orally or in writing, by Members of this House, to the effect that the Chinese must be repatriated?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1080–2, clxxv., 68.

‡ See pp. 483–4.

MR. CHURCHILL: No representations of a special character that I am aware of were made, other than the statements which have been freely made during the last two years.

MR. LYTTELTON: What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by representations of a special character? Were representations made in writing, or by deputations or otherwise, by Members of this House?

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir. I have no knowledge of anything that affords the slightest foundation for such a suggestion. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will let us know the evidence on which he has thought it right to make the suggestion.

MR. HAROLD COX: This is an Indian question after all. May I ask again whether General Botha gave any assurances in the course of conversation with the Government?

MR. CHURCHILL: He did give an assurance that, in regard to the regulations to be framed under the Asiatic Ordinance, he and his Government would endeavour to remove from the regulations some of the points on which they have been criticised. But any such changes had better be examined when they are made the subject of public statement in the Transvaal Legislature.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the reason for the exceptional course proposed to be taken with regard to the Transvaal loan; and why that Colony, which possesses such wealth and resources, should be favoured more than the other relatively poorer Colonies of South Africa, which are equally suffering from the depression consequent on the cessation of the expenditure of the war.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave to the hon. Member for York on Tuesday.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if any official record was kept of the discussions and negotiations which took place between the Government and the Premier of the Transvaal relative to the proposed guarantee of the Transvaal loan; and, if so, whether a summary of them will be presented to the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Answer is in the negative.

MR. LYTTELTON: Are we to understand that before the introduction of this Loan Bill the House is to have no information as to the special reasons which induced the Government to advance, on the credit of the nation, a further £5,000,000 to the Transvaal?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will recognise that when a Loan Bill is introduced into the House of Commons substantial arguments must be adduced by the Minister making that proposal, and no doubt the foundation for such an argument would be the publication of Papers. I expect Papers will be laid on the Table before the Bill can be introduced; but in any case the House alone can be the judge.

MR. LYTTELTON: A moment ago the right hon. Gentleman said that Papers would not be laid.

MR. CHURCHILL: I stated to the House that no summary of the discussions and negotiations would be laid on the Table; but it is quite possible that, when the Transvaal Government have passed the Loan Bill through both Houses of their Legislature, there will be correspondence between the two Governments of an official character which I should think would very likely be entirely suited for publication.

MR. LYTTELTON: When will the Loan Bill be introduced in the Transvaal Legislature?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not always able to predict the course of business in this House, and still less in the Transvaal Legislature.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the Customs Union of the South African Colonies, the Premiers of Cape Colony and of Natal were consulted in the negotiations which took place with regard to the proposed guarantee of the Transvaal loan.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Answer is in the negative. The proposed loan has nothing to do with the South African Customs Union.

Crime in the Transvaal.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any statistics are published by the Transvaal Government showing the amount of criminality in proportion to numbers among the different races inhabiting the Transvaal; and whether the British-Indian community has more or less criminality than other communities.

MR. CHURCHILL: A Return was prepared by the Transvaal Government showing the number of persons of different nationalities confined in Transvaal prisons on 30th June, 1906. According to this Return the proportions per 1,000 of the population were: European, 2·75; Native, 2·37; Indian, 3·30; Chinese, 18·50. No later figures are available.

Imperial Forces in the Transvaal.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether General Botha, when expressing a desire on behalf of his Government that the Imperial forces in the Transvaal should be maintained at proper strength, also expressed any desire to pay for those forces out of the revenues of the Transvaal in the same way that the Imperial forces maintained in India are paid for out of the revenues of India.

MR. CHURCHILL: My hon. friend will, no doubt, be surprised to learn that the Answer is in the negative.

Zulu Prisoners for St. Helena.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is intended to send a party of Zulu prisoners to St. Helena for detention; whether it is intended to make this island a penal settlement; and, if so, what steps will be taken to ensure the peace and safety of the island.

MR. CHURCHILL: Twenty-five Zulu prisoners have been sent from Natal to St. Helena under the provisions of the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act. There is no intention of making the island into a penal settlement. Warders accompany the prisoners from Natal, and there is no reason to anticipate that the presence of the prisoners will in any way endanger the peace or safety of the island.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: How many warders will be sent?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have no knowledge as to that.

Panama Canal Labour.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when he expects to lay upon the Table a copy of the contracts under which Trinidad labourers have been recruited to work on the Panama Canal.

MR. CHURCHILL: I will lay the Paper very shortly.

Transvaal Civil Servants' Leave.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Government of the Transvaal have abolished the system of allowing leave to accumulate, by which Englishmen in the Civil Service of the Transvaal may be able to visit England once in three or four years.

MR. CHURCHILL: No information has reached the Secretary of State of any recent alteration in the Transvaal Leave Regulations.

New Hebrides Convention.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what were the terms of reference to the Anglo-French Commission which has been considering subjects connected with the New Hebrides Convention; who the members of this Commission were; and when the Report will be published.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have to refer the hon. and gallant Member to the Answers given yesterday, on behalf of my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield.†

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† See page 669.

New Hebrides.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether nations other than France and England are entitled to recruit natives of the New Hebrides to serve outside the islands.

SIR EDWARD GREY: So far as I am aware there is at the present moment no power to control persons belonging to any nationality recruiting natives in the New Hebrides for service outside the group. If, however, as seems probable, the hon. Member is inquiring whether nations other than France or Great Britain will be entitled to recruit when the Anglo-French Convention of 20th October, 1906, comes into force, I would point out that under Article 31 the two High Commissioners will have the power to refuse a licence to recruit to any vessel not sailing under the flag of one of the signatory Powers.

Pacific Islanders' Protection Act.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Bill amending The Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1872, will be introduced.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given yesterday by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for North West Lanark.†

Income-tax.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the average rate of income-tax paid by persons having incomes of £160 to £700 each.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): It is roughly estimated that the average rate of income-tax now paid by persons having incomes of £160 to £700 is 6d. in the £.

Transvaal Loans.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if the proposed guarantee by the Home Government of the Transvaal loan for £5,000,000 will entail the creation of a further issue of stock returning to the purchaser a higher rate of interest than that now paid on Consols, thus competing with Consols in the market.

MR. ASQUITH: The manner of raising the proposed loan is still under consideration, and I am not at present in a position to say what precise form the security will take, or what rate of interest it will bear.

MR. FELL: Will not the issue of the loan have the effect of prejudicing the increase of the Sinking Fund arranged for this year?

MR. ASQUITH: That is a matter of opinion.

Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

MR. W. PEARCE (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Workmen's Compensation Act will be followed by the establishment of a combined tariff by the insurance offices concerned; and if, in view of the amount of increased premium demanded and the absence of competition, he will consider the possibility of action by the Government.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have no official information on the subject, but the matter is one of importance, which shall be carefully watched. The question whether the Post Office should undertake insurance against liability arising under the Act is being considered by a Departmental Committee, whose report has not yet been presented.

The Home Office and Messrs Kynoch.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state why the proceedings against Messrs. Kynoch were taken under Section 74 of the Explosives Act, whereby a charge of breaking a highly technical regulation had to be heard by a local bench of magistrates; is he aware that Section 56 of the same Act gives the alternative of proceeding before a tribunal competent to decide a case involving chemical questions of great difficulty, viz., a legal umpire and two expert arbitrators; whether the Home Office inspectors have admitted, in regard to Messrs. Kynoch's Arklow explosive, the purity of the explosive, that the admitted percentage of mercury would have an antiseptic effect, that it did not alter the character of the explosive as an explosive, the use of mercury with nitro-cotton in Germany and elsewhere, and that it had no deleterious effect upon the explosive; whether, in view of these admissions, he will state why exceptional treatment has been given to Messrs. Kynoch; and will he give instructions that in cases of this kind the special tribunal contemplated by the Act will in future be resorted to.

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† See page 694.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I laid the whole of the papers in this case before the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the proceedings were taken by him under Section 9 of the Explosives Act, which provides that in the manufacture of explosives the terms of the licence shall be duly observed. The explosive was seized by the inspectors under Section 74. Arbitration, even if admissible in view of the terms of Section 56 of the Act, does not, as I have already pointed out, carry the necessary power to seize, and, if need be, obtain the forfeiture of explosives which may be a source of danger. The inspectors have not admitted the purity of the explosive seized, but have repeatedly stated that this cannot be determined owing to the presence of mercury. The fact that there has occurred a spontaneous ignition of some of Messrs. Kynoch's explosive containing mercury does not bear out the contention as to purity. The inspectors consider it unnecessary and absurd to add antiseptics to gelatinised explosives, and they consider, further, that mercuric chloride *is* likely to have a detrimental effect upon the explosive. Messrs. Kynoch have not received exceptional treatment; as I have already explained, proceedings were taken against them because it was their explosive which, by spontaneous ignition, first drew attention to the matter. I should like to point out, further, that there is no foundation whatever for the charge of hostility to Ireland and Irish industries which has been freely made against myself and my Department. Messrs. Kynoch have three factories in Great Britain and one in Ireland, and they employ many more people in the former country than in the latter. Proceedings were taken against the firm without regard to the locality of their different factories, and as a matter of fact no seizure has been made and no proceedings taken at Arklow. Nothing whatever has been done or will be done to interfere with the manufacture by Messrs. Kynoch's at Arklow of lawful explosives.

MR. MOONEY said the right hon. Gentleman had not answered the last paragraph of his Question.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I think I have. I have already pointed out that the arbitration clause does not give the necessary power of seizing explosives made illegally.

MR. MOONEY asked whether it was not the fact that the explosives which were seized were explosives which were manufactured at Arklow, and was it, therefore, correct to say that there had been no interference with Messrs. Kynoch's works; also, how was it, if the inspectors of the Department seized the explosives on the ground that they were dangerous to the public, the case was taken before a tribunal which had only authority to decide whether a technical breach of a Home Office licence had been committed?

*MR. GLADSTONE: The technical breach obviously involves the question of public danger. As to the first part of the hon. Gentleman's Question, the explosive seized was an explosive which contained an unauthorised ingredient, and any such explosive, whoever makes it and wherever it is found, will be so dealt with by the officials of my Department.

MR. MOONEY: Are we to understand that manufacturers in England who were manufacturing explosives containing the same ingredients as were those of Messrs. Kynoch had their manufactures passed by the Home Office inspectors, and that they only stopped passing them when Messrs. Kynoch's explosives had been seized?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I dealt with that question fully yesterday, and I repeat that, whenever it comes to the notice and knowledge of the inspectors that explosives are being manufactured with this ingredient, they will take action similar to the action which has been taken against Messrs. Kynoch.

MR. MOONEY asked whether it was not within the right hon. Gentleman's own knowledge that the inspectors of his Department had passed explosives containing this ingredient which were manufactured by English manufacturers, and only stopped doing so when Messrs. Kynoch were attacked ?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I give to that the most emphatic negative in my power.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether his attention had been drawn to the fact that in certain circumstances there was a likelihood of the Arklow works of Messrs. Kynoch being closed; whether if that should take place, it must result in the throwing out of employment of several hundreds of men and of causing considerable distress there; and whether, having regard to the great necessity there was of employment, particularly in a place like Arklow, the Government would take steps to prevent any necessity arising for the closing of these works ?

* MR. GLADSTONE: I should be extremely sorry if any unnecessary action on the part of my Department led to any interference with the works at Arklow. I can give that assurance to the hon. Member quite cordially. But I cannot see why the prosperity of the works at Arklow should depend upon the manufacture of an explosive which contains an unauthorised ingredient and which constitutes a public danger.

MR. MOONEY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as representing the Prime Minister, whether, in view of the very evasive Answers they had received from the Home Secretary in connection with this matter, he would consider the advisability of putting down the Home Office Vote for an early date, so that the matter might be fully discussed.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir, certainly not. The Answers given by the Home Secretary, so far from being evasive, have been explicit in the extreme.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) asked the Home Secretary whether samples of this dangerous explosive were discovered at the recent convention in Dublin.

MR. MOONEY asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was in a position to state the name of the English firm against which he was proceeding.

* MR. GLADSTONE: The National.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Belfast, W.) asked whether the policy of destroying Irish industries was one of the new policies of the Liberal Imperialists in the Cabinet ?

[No Answer was given.]

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: It is because Chamberlain's in it.

Vivisection.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in addition to the two inspectors, Dr. Thane and Sir James Russell, and the Association for Research mentioned in the Appendix to the First Report of the Royal Commission now sitting, he has any other expert advisers in the matter of vivisection licences; and, if so, whether, in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1876 (top of page 17 of Report) to the effect that the names of these advisers should be made known to the public, he will inform the House of the names of these other expert advisers.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, if his expert advisers in the matter of vivisection licences consist solely of the Association for Research and the two inspectors, he will, in view of the opinions and advice tendered by the Royal Commission of 1876 in pages 16 and 17 of their Report, add to his advisers some independent persons whose interests are not bound up with those of the vivisectors.

* MR. GLADSTONE: As I said in reply to a previous Question put by my hon. friend on the 15th May, the usual procedure in applications made to me for licences to perform experiments on living animals is set out in the Appendix to the first Report of the Royal Commission

now sitting. Occasionally, where questions of great importance have arisen, upon which it was thought advisable to obtain the opinion of the highest authorities, the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and the Pharmaceutical Society have been consulted. I do not propose to make any change in the existing practice, pending the Report of the Royal Commission now sitting. The Commission of 1876 said that the advisers of the Secretary of State ought to be persons of competent knowledge and experience, and the inspectors satisfy this description. I may add that no licence or certificate is granted without the recommendation of the eminent authorities mentioned in Section 11 of the Act of 1876.

MR. SMEATON: If the Commission recommend additional expert advisers is the right hon. Gentleman prepared to appoint them?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I will wait and see what they recommend.

Edalji Case.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the presiding magistrate in the Edalji case took notes of the proceedings; if so, whether such notes have been for some time at the disposal of the Home Office; and whether the Committee which reported upon the verdict had the advantage of having the notes before them.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Deputy Chairman took rough pencil notes of the proceedings in the Edalji case, which were sent up to the Home Office in December, 1903. They were returned to the magistrate at his request in January, 1904. The Committee did not have the notes before them nor did they ask for them. They had before them the two letters from the Deputy Chairman reporting on the case, printed copies of the depositions taken before the committing magistrates; and the newspaper reports of the proceedings in court.

Compensation for Wrongful Conviction.

MR. F. E. SMITH: I beg ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many and what cases, and to what amounts, compensation has been recommended by the Home Office in the last twenty years in cases where persons have been convicted of criminal offences, and it has been demonstrated that such convictions were unsatisfactory.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Within the last twenty years there have been twelve cases in which compensation has been recommended on account of the conviction having been found to be unsatisfactory or wrong. In two of such cases the consequences entailed by the conviction were so serious as to justify the payment of substantial sums. In one case the sum of £5,000 was paid, and in the other the sum of £1,600 was divided between two persons. In the remaining ten cases the compensation paid varied from £1 to £40.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): Were free pardons granted in these cases?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not sure.

Government Contracts in Ireland.

MR. J. DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the Irish Trades Congress requesting the Government to appoint a Departmental Committee to sit in Ireland and to inquire into the question of printing and all other Imperial and Local Government contracts in Ireland, and to report on same; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. RUNCIMAN: No such resolution has been brought to my notice.

Inspection of Factories in Belfast.

MR. J. DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the Resolution passed by the Irish Trades Council, reiterating their demand for more effective and systematic inspection of workshops and factories in respect of ventilation and sanitation, particularly in the clothing and textile trades; whether he has any official information showing that the condition of some of the factories in Belfast is very bad, and that the sanitary authorities are neglecting their duties; whether he is aware that many of the girls complain of the bad air, and that the death rate from consumption of the workers is very high; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have received no resolution on the subject from the Irish Trades Union Congress, nor have I any official information that the sanitary authorities in Belfast are neglecting their duties. With regard to the last part of the Question, I have already stated in reply to a previous Question of the hon. Member that the conditions in the flax and linen factories of Belfast were recently made the subject of a special inquiry, and new regulations have been issued which should lead to a considerable improvement in the ventilation and generally in the conditions under which work is carried on.

Dangerous Explosives.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Admiralty and the War Office are in the habit of notifying the Home Office of the rejection of dangerous explosives, such as cordite and guncotton, by reason of impurities; if so, whether the practice has existed for some years; whether the Home Office then take into consideration the destruction or isolation of these rejected explosives; and whether there is any regulation to prevent rejected cordite and guncotton being shipped on board merchant vessels.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: The War Office and Admiralty are not in the habit of notifying the Home Office of the rejection of explosives, but would probably do so in any case where they considered the explosive to be dangerous; and the question of what should be done with the rejected explosive would then be taken into consideration. No such case has, however, occurred before the present one. Many of the reasons for rejection are not connected with safety in keeping and conveyance, and would not disqualify an explosive from being legally conveyed in this country. In the case of a dangerous explosive it would be illegal to convey it by rail to a port of exportation, and under the by-laws of most harbour authorities no unauthorised explosive may be brought into the harbour precincts. An explosive which fails to pass the necessary tests or is otherwise dangerous would cease to be an authorised explosive.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: What becomes of the explosive?

*Mr. GLADSTONE: If a Committee which has been appointed by me in conjunction with the War Office in reference to this matter decide that this particular explosive is, in fact, dangerous to the public, of course it will have to be destroyed; but they will examine and report as to what can safely be done with it.

Motor-Cars.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if it is intended to introduce any measure dealing with motor cars during the present session.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): As I stated yesterday, in reply to my hon. friend the Member for the Reigate Division, there would not seem to be any probability that time could be found for the consideration by the House this year of a measure of the kind referred to in the Question, and hence it does not appear to me that there would be any advantage in its being introduced.

Registrar-General's Report.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when the usual decennial Supplement of the Registrar-General, dealing with the vital statistics for the decade 1891–1900, will be published; and whether, in view of the importance of this publication and the loss of utility occasioned by the delay in its appearance, he will take steps to expedite its publication in the future.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I have communicated with the Registrar-General, and find that the first volume of the Supplement is in the press and will be published before the end of the present month, and that the Registrar-General hopes to issue the second about the end of this year. He is fully alive to the desirability of issuing the decennial Supplements as expeditiously as possible, but their value greatly depends on the elaboration of the materials they contain.

Cromford Canal.

MR. BRUNNER (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether a Report has been presented by the inspector sent to investigate the condition of the Cromford Canal; and whether the Report will be laid upon the Table.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. KEARLEY, Devonport): Sir William Matthews, who has been appointed to inspect this canal, has not completed his inquiry. When his Report is received the question of publication will be considered.

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.

MR. CHAPLIN (Surrey, Wimbledon): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works, in reference to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, whether the powers conferred under Clause 7 of that Bill include powers for the erection of buildings and the equipment of the holding.

I beg also to ask the First Commissioner of Works, in reference to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, whether, in Sub-section (2) of Section 19, the word buildings includes a dwelling-house.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The Answers to these two Questions are in the affirmative.

Welsh Education Department.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he is now in a position to state how far it will be possible or expedient to assign a clerical staff exclusively to the work of the Welsh Education Department.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): It would be impossible to assign a clerical staff exclusively to the Welsh Department while the Board are located in their present offices. When the new building is ready for occupation the question will require further consideration.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Estates.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Crewe Division, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he is in a position to state if the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are now prepared to make any changes in their policy with regard to public-houses and the sale of beer, wine, or spirits on their estates; and, if so, what those changes will be.

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): The Commissioners have not in view any change in their policy with regard to public-houses and the sale of beer, wine, or spirits on their estates. That policy has been to reduce the number of licensed houses wherever practicable, and has fully answered the expectations of the Commissioners.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Will the hon. Gentleman say under what circumstances the Commissioners are willing to reduce the number of licences?

MR. TOMKINSON: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Agents.

MR. WEDGWOOD: I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Crewe Division, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he has considered the advisability of substituting for the present centralised agency of Messrs. Clutton and Messrs. Smith-Gore local agents more in touch with the Commissioners' estates and with the needs of the localities.

MR. TOMKINSON: My experience of the question has been too short to justify an expression of any private opinion of my own, but the Commissioners do not think that a change in the system of management of their estates in the direction of decentralisation of agency would be desirable. They are satisfied, having regard to the nature and distribution of the estates and after an experience of more than fifty years that such a change would not conduce to efficiency, economy, or convenience.

MR. WEDGWOOD: Will the hon. Gentleman consult the Board of Agriculture as to the reasons which led them to discard the services of Messrs. Clutton? May not those reasons be applicable to this case?

Mr. TOMKINSON: I am quite aware of the circumstances under which the connection between the Board of Agricul- and Messrs. Clutton terminated. It has been and still is matter for consideration.

Scottish Crofter Leaseholders.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that Mr. William Mackenzie, of Buck, Tarradale, Ross-shire, although not in arrear with his rent, is now, at the termination of his lease, being summarily evicted by Mrs. Mary Fraser, Carna-chlarsair, Muir of Ord; and will he take steps to introduce provisions in the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill to protect crofter leaseholders from eviction pending the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): My right hon. friend has asked me to reply. He has no information in regard to this case other than that now furnished by my hon. friend's Question. He regrets to say that it is not possible to provide protection for such cases in the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. WEIR: I am very sorry to hear that.

Scottish Land Values.

Mr. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether any estimates have been called for from the Scottish assessors of the extra cost to them involved in the separation of land values under the Land Values (Scotland) Bill; what is the total amount of such estimates; and how the extra charge will be met.

I beg also to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether any estimates have been called for from the Scottish assessors of the cost to the individual owners of land values involved in the separation of such land values under the Land Values (Scotland) Bill; and whether he will print and circulate with the Votes the particulars of such estimates.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (for Mr. Sinclair): No such estimates have been called for. The cost of obtaining the new information will be defrayed from the same sources as the existing expenditure on valuation.

Irish Flax Industry.

Mr. J. DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture (Ireland) whether his attention has been directed to the Annual Report of the Flax Supply Association, submitted at a meeting held in Belfast on the 31st May, 1907, in which it is stated that during the year 1906 Ireland imported over 45,000 tons of flax, and that, with immense capabilities, Ireland only provides about 23 per cent. of the raw material used in one of her leading industries; and whether, in view of the opinion of experts that Ireland is the best flax-producing country in the world, he will say what the Irish Agricultural Department has done and proposes to do to remedy the present state of affairs in regard to flax-growing in Ireland.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell Bristol, N.): The attention of the Department of Agriculture has been called to the annual report of the Flax Supply Association. The total supply of flax in Ireland in 1906 was about 45,000 tons, the imports amounting to about 33,000 tons, and not 45,000 as stated in the Question. The Department have for several years been doing everything in their power to assist the flax-growing industry, and their efforts have had the cordial co-operation of the Ulster flax growers and local authorities. Their schemes include prizes to growers, scutch-mill owners, and employees, experiments in manures and seed, the dissemination of information, the promotion of co-operative flax societies, and other measures.

Chairman of Irish Town Commissioners.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to cases in which persons, placed in the Commission of the Peace *ex officio* as chairmen of Town Commissioners in Ireland, have acted as magistrates outside of the towns of which they are chairmen; and whether, in view of the effect of their participating in the hearing of summonses without jurisdiction upon the decision arrived at, he will say what steps, if any, it is proposed to adopt to prevent the due course of law being interfered with by such irregularities.

MR. BIRRELL: My right hon. friend asks me to reply to this. I am not aware of any case in which a chairman of Town Commissioners has acted as a magistrate outside his district. The Question is probably intended to refer to the case of certain chairmen of district councils in the counties of Galway and Roscommon who have recently acted as magistrates outside the districts for which they are *ex officio* Justices of the Peace. I am informed that these gentlemen have already been communicated with by the Lord Chancellor, who at present has their cases under his consideration.

Mohill Post Office.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if a new post office will be built in Mohill, county Leitrim, or if the new building which was recently built and intended for a post office will be used for the same, as the present post office is too small and unsuited for the purpose, owing to the amount of business that has to be transacted in the office.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): In this case the duty of providing suitable accommodation for the work rests with the sub-postmistress, who arranged some time since for the transfer of the post office work to a house then in course of erection. I find that there has been delay in the occupation of the new building owing to a dispute between the landlady and the local district council in regard to the sanitation of the building, and that litigation has resulted and is still proceeding.

Belfast Assistant Inspectors of Postmen.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the fact that two assistant inspectors of postmen at Belfast were recently reported for employing telegraph messengers under sixteen years of age, the official minimum, to deal with public correspondence; and whether, in view of the fact that no older boys were available, he will explain why twenty-one boys, who had been detained from three to five years on the understanding that they would receive permanent employment as postmen as vacancies occurred, were a few months ago dismissed from the service, and in some cases warned of impending dismissal, as places could not be found for them.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Inquiry is being made in regard to the statements contained in the Question.

Irish Councils Bill.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Prime Minister on what date he proposes to move that the Order for the Second Reading of the Irish Council Bill be discharged and the Bill withdrawn.

MR. ASQUITH (for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): The date has not yet been decided upon.

Territorial Forces Bill.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the encroachment on the time allocated for discussion of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill by his speech on Monday, 3rd June, outlining the course of business for this and next session, he will grant extra time on the Report stage for discussion of those parts of the measure so crowded out.

MR. ASQUITH: The Answer is in the negative.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that very considerable dissatisfaction was expressed in Committee yesterday on both sides of the House because insufficient time was allowed for discussing the Bill?

[No Answer was returned.]

School Teachers' Emoluments.

CAPTAIN CRAIG; I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he can state the average salary and emoluments of national school teachers of the various classes and grades in England (including Wales), Scotland, and Ireland respectively.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Member should put this Question to the Ministers concerned. I would suggest the President of the Board of Education, the Secretary for Scotland, and the Irish Secretary.

New Hebrides.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will favourably consider the question of advancing £5,000,000, or a lesser sum, for the development of British interests in the New Hebrides, provided the islanders consent to the deletion of such clauses in the recent Anglo-French Convention as sanction recruiting of children of tender years for employment from sunrise to sunset with only one hour's rest in the day.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to proceed with the Education (Scotland) Bill during the present session.

MR. ASQUITH: The Government are most anxious to proceed with this Bill, but the prospect of doing so will depend upon the progress made with other measures before the Scottish Standing Committee.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the pledges given in Committee upstairs?

MR. ASQUITH: I have said we are most anxious to proceed with the Bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that although the Committee has sat seven days it has only passed twenty lines?

MR. ASQUITH: I am not aware of that.

All-British Mail Route.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will announce the terms of reference, the nature of the instructions issued, and the official position of the gentlemen charged with inquiring into the establishment of a fast all-British mail route, as recommended by the Imperial Conference.

MR. ASQUITH: The inquiry which is now being made by the Government with the aid of departmental officials into the matters referred to in the Question is of an informal and confidential character. I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which the Prime Minister gave him on the 29th of May.†

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked as to the business next week.

MR. ASQUITH said the Government proposed to conclude the Committee stage of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill on Monday next. On Tuesday, Supply would be taken, the Navy, Vote 2, the Army, Vote 7, and other Votes. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Second Reading of the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill would be taken.

STANDING ORDERS.

Ordered, That so much of Standing Order No. 91 as fixes Five as the quorum of the Select Committee on Standing Orders be read and suspended.

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the Session, Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*Mr. Ellis.*)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (added in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Eugene Wason; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Public Rights of Way (No. 2) Bill); Mr. J. W. H. Thompson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill): Sir Thomas Whittaker and Mr. Duckworth; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill); Mr. Tennant and Mr. Acland Allen.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1656–7.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Lawrence John Lumley Dundas, commonly known as the Earl of Ronaldshay, for the County of Middlesex (Hornsey Division).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That the Consideration of the East India Revenue Accounts have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Order for Committee read.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I am afraid I shall have to ask the House for rather a large draft upon its indulgence. The Indian Secretary is like the aloe, which, I think, blooms once in 100 years, for he only troubles the House with speeches of his own once in twelve months. There are several topics which the House will expect me to say something about, and there are two or three topics of supreme interest and importance for which I will plead for the patience and comprehensive consideration of the House. We are too apt to find that Gentlemen here and outside fix upon an incident of which they read in the newspaper; they put it under a microscope, and then indulge in reflections upon it, and they regard that as taking an intelligent interest in the affairs of India. If we could suppose that on some occasion within the last three or four weeks a wrong turn had been taken in judgment in Simla, or in the Cabinet, or in the India Office, or that to-day in this House some wrong turn might be taken, what disasters would follow, what titanic efforts to repair these disasters, what devouring waste of national and Indian treasure lost, and what a wreckage would follow in the train! I submit that these are quite certain or possible consequences which misjudgment either here or in India, or among His Majesty's Government, might bring with it. Sir, I believe I am not going too far when I say that this is almost, if not quite, the first occasion upon which what is called the British democracy in its full strength has been brought directly face to face with the difficulties of Indian Government in all their intricacies, all their complexities, and, above all, in all their subtleties, and their enormous magnitude. Last year when I had the honour of addressing the House on the Indian Budget, I observed, as others have done before me, that it is one of the most difficult experiments that have ever been tried, I think, in human history—whether you can carry on, what I think for myself you will have to carry on in India, personal government along with free speech and free right of public meeting. That which last year was partially a speculative question has this year become more or less actual, and that is a question which I shall by and by have to submit to the House. I want to set out the case as frankly as I possibly can. I want, if I may say so without presumption, to take the House into full confidence so far—and let nobody quarrel with this provision—as public interests allow. I will ask the House to remember that we do not only hear one another; we are ourselves this afternoon overheard. Words that may be spoken here are overheard in the whole kingdom. They are overheard thousands and thousands of miles away by a great and complex community; and they are overheard by others who are doing the service and work of the Crown in India, and by those who take part in the great work of commercial and non-official life in India. We are overheard by great Indian princes who are outside British India. We are overheard by the great dim masses of Indians whom, in spite of all, we persist in regarding as our friends, and we are overheard by those whom, I am afraid, we must reluctantly call our enemies. This is the reason why everybody who speaks to-day, including myself, must use language which is well advised, of reserve, and, as I say again, of comprehensive consideration.

The subject of discussion being the Indian Budget, I must turn for a moment to finance. I assume that all the Members of the House have entirely mastered the statement of details of the accounts and Estimates for the three years 1905–6, 1906–7, and 1907–8. I assume that these are in the mind of every Member of this House. Last year I told the House that I could not regard with patience the salt tax—a tax upon a necessary of life. I am glad to be able to say, as the House already knows, that the salt tax, which was reduced by half a rupee in 1903, and by half a rupee in 1905, has now been reduced in 1907–8. I greatly rejoice, because, after all, the rise in the consumption of salt in consequence of this reduction of duty proved that it weighed upon the people. The cost of these reductions is £3,000,000. These reductions amount to 60 per cent. of the tax as it stood before March, 1903. After allowing for the effects of the reduction on salt, and the diminution, as computed, of the revenue from opium of £600,000, we anticipate a surplus of £750,000. All surpluses are satisfactory, and this is satisfactory. This surplus is due to two causes. The first is that the agricultural prosperity of the year has been most favourable; and the second is that we have decided, in consultation with the Government of India, to reduce the military expenditure for the year by £500,000. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] I am glad that that meets with the approval of hon. Gentlemen. The end of it all is that our financial position is sound; and we have a splendid security to offer for all loans that are raised in this country for Indian purposes and on Indian securities. One other particular, which it is hard to mention without controversy, is the cost of the training of the British troops for service in India. Payments by India to the War Office in respect of the training of British troops for service in India amount to £500,000 per annum. The method of calculating this charge has not, I think, been changed for twenty years, and for some time it has been admitted that it should be submitted to investigation. All I can say is that my right hon. friend here, the Secretary for War, will find me a dragon in his path to the Indian gold mine. In the meantime the controversy is still unsettled, and a Committee has been appointed, with my right hon. friend's consent, which will begin work in the autumn to ascertain the proportion of these charges which should be borne respectively by this country and by India. I am glad to say that Lord Justice Romer will be chairman of that Committee; Lord Welby will be a member of it, and we shall agree upon a third member. There will also be two representatives of the India Office and two representatives of the War Office; and I hope that the result of their deliberations will be that some scheme or schedule of the respective charges will be arrived at which will do justice to the British taxpayer and justice also to the Indian taxpayer. There is one very important subject which I wish to press upon the attention of the House, viz., the extension of the railway system. There, again, I am well aware of the enormous interest taken by traders in this country and the interest taken or not taken, but which ought to be taken, by people living in India, in the extension of railway enterprise in India. And here, again, I have been fortunate enough to get a Committee of experts (some of whom will go to India) for the purpose of examining carefully into the details of railway administration, and how far the complaints are well founded and justified. So much for railways.

The Budget is a prosperity Budget. We have, however, to admit that a black shadow falls across the prospect. The plague figures are appalling. But do not let us get unreasonably excited, even about these appalling figures. If we reviewed the plague figures up to last December, we might have hoped that this horrible scourge was on the wane. From 92,000 deaths in the year 1900, the figures went up to 1,100,000 in 1904, while in 1905 they exceeded 1,000,000. In 1906 a gleam of hope arose, and the mortality sank to something under 350,000. The combined efforts of the Government and the people had produced that reduction; but, alas! since January, 1907, the plague has again flared up in districts that have been filled with its terror for a decade; and for the first four months of this year the deaths amounted to 642,000, which exceeded the record for the same period in any past year. You must remember that we have to cover a very vast area. I do not know that these figures would appal us if we took the area of the whole of Europe. It was in 1896 that the plague first appeared in India, and up to April, 1907, the total figure of those human beings who have died is 5,250,000. But dealing with a population of 300,000,000, this great mortality, although enormous, is not at all comparable with the results of the black death and other scourges which spread over Europe in earlier times, in proportion to the population. The plague mortality in 1904 (the worst complete year) would only represent, if evenly distributed, a death-rate of about 3 per 1,000. But it is local, and particularly centres in the Punjab, the United Provinces, and in Bombay. I do not think that anybody who has been concerned in India—I do not care to what school of Indian thought he belongs—can deny that measures for the extermination and mitigation of this disease have occupied the most serious, constant, unflagging, zealous, and energetic attention of the Indian Government. But the difficulties we encounter are enormous, as many Members of the House are well aware. It is possible that hon. Members may rise and say that we are not enforcing with sufficient zeal proper sanitary rules; and, on the other hand, I dare say that other hon. Members will get up to show that the great difficulty in the way of sanitary rules being observed arises from the reluctance of the population to practise them. That is perfectly natural and is well understood. They are a suspicious population and we all know that when these new rules are forced upon them they naturally resent and resist them. A policy of severe repression is worse than useless. I will not detain the House with particulars of all the proceedings we have taken to deal with the plague; but I may say that we have instituted a long scientific inquiry with the aid of the Royal Society and the Lister Institute. Then we have very intelligent officers who have done all they could to trace the root of the disease, and to discover, if they could, any means to prevent it. It is a curious thing that, while there appears to be no immunity from this frightful scourge for the natives, Europeans are almost entirely immune from the disease. That is a difficult thing to understand. As to the opium question, I know that an enormous number of Members in the House are interested in it. Judging by the voluminous correspondence which I receive, all the Churches and both political Parties are sincerely and deeply interested in the question, and I was going to say that the resolutions with which they have favoured me often use the expression "righteousness before revenue." But you must not satisfy your own righteousness at the expense of other people's revenue.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): We are quite ready to bear the expense.

MR. MORLEY: My hon. friend says they are quite prepared to bear the expense; I commend that observation hopefully to the Chancellor of the Exchequer —no, not hopefully. This question touches the consciences of the people of this country very deeply. My hon. friend sometimes goes a little far; still, he represents a considerable body of feeling. Last May, when the opium question was raised in this House, something fell from me which reached the Chinese Government, and the Chinese Government, on the strength of that utterance of mine, made in the name of His Majesty's Government, have persistently done their best to come to some sort of arrangement and understanding with His Majesty's Government upon the subject of opium. In September an Imperial decree was issued in China ordering the strict prohibition of the consumption and cultivation of opium, with a view to the ultimate eradication of all the evils of that evil habit in the space of ten years. A correspondence took place with my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary, and since then there has been a considerable correspondence, some of which the House is, by Question and Answer, acquainted with. The Chinese Government have been always assured, not only by my words spoken in May, but by the Foreign Secretary, that the sympathy of this country was with the objects set forth in their decree of September. Then a very important incident, as I regard it, and one I think likely to prove very fruitful, was the application by the United States Government to our Government as to whether there should not be a joint inquiry into the opium traffic by the United States and the other Powers concerned. The House knows, by Question and Answer, that His Majesty's Government think that procedure by way of Commission rather than by way of Conference is the right way to approach the question. But no one can doubt for a moment, considering the enormous interest the United States have shown on previous occasions, that some good result will come from this.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): May I ask whether in this inquiry other

Powers are to participate besides ourselves?

Mr. MORLEY: Oh, yes, certainly. I think it has already been stated to the House by the Foreign Secretary. The point is that the United States Government wished to be informed whether His Majesty's Government were willing to take part in a joint international Commission of investigation, and whether certain other Powers were likewise willing. I think the noble Lord will find that all the greater Powers have been consulted. I will not detain the House with the details, but certainly it is a great satisfaction to know that a great deal of talk as to the Chinese interest in the suppression of opium being fictitious is unreal. I was much struck by a sentence written by the correspondent of *The Times* at Peking recently. Everybody who knows him is aware that he is not a sentimentalist, yet he used remarkable language. He said that he viewed the development in China of the anti-opium movement as encouraging; that the movement was certainly popular, and was supported by the entire native Press, while a hopeful sign was that the use of opium was fast becoming unfashionable, and would become more so. A correspondence, so far as the Government of India is concerned, is in progress. Those of my hon. friends who think we are lacking, perhaps, in energy and zeal I would refer to the language used by Mr. Baker, the very able finance member of the Viceroy's Council, because these words really define the position of the Government of India—

> "What the eventual outcome will be it is impossible to foresee. The practical difficulties which China has imposed on herself are enormous, and may prove insuperable, but it is evident that the gradual reduction and eventual extinction of the revenue that India has derived from the trade has been brought a stage nearer, and it is necessary for us to be prepared for whatever may happen."

He added that twenty years ago, or even less, the prospect of losing a revenue of five and a-half crores of rupees a year would have caused great anxiety, and even now the loss to Indian finances would be serious and might necessitate recourse to increased taxation; but if, as they had a clear right to expect, the transition was effected with due regard to finance, and was spread over a term of years, the consequence need not be regarded with apprehension.

Earl Percy.

When I approach military expenditure, and war and the dangers of war, I think I ought to say a word about the visit of the Ameer of Afghanistan, which excited so much attention, and kindled so lively an interest in great parts, not only of our own dominions, but in Asia. I am persuaded that we have reason to look back on that visit with the most entire and complete satisfaction. His Majesty's Government previously to the visit of the Ameer instructed the Governor-General in Council on no account to open any political questions with the Ameer. That was really part of the conditions of the Ameer's visit; and the result of that policy, which we, looking back on it, regard as we did before, has been to place our relations with the Ameer—a very important person—on an eminently satisfactory footing, a far better footing than would have been arrived at by any formal premeditated convention. The Ameer himself made a speech when he arrived at Kabul on his return, and I am aware that in that speech I come to a question of what may seem a Party or personal character, which it is not in the least my intention to deal with. This is what the Ameer said on 10th April—

> "The officers of the Government of India never said a word on political matters, they kept their promise. But as to myself, whenever and wherever I found an opportunity I spoke indirectly on several matters which concerned the interests of my country and nation. The other side never took undue advantage of it, and never discussed with me on those points which I mentioned. His Excellency's invitation (Lord Minto's) to me was in such a proper form that I had no objection to accept it. The invitation which he sent was worded in quite a different form from that of the invitation which I received on the occasion of the Delhi Durbar. In the circumstances I had determined to undergo all risks (at the time of the Delhi Durbar) and, if necessary, to sacrifice all my possessions and my own life, but not to accept such an invitation as was sent to me for coming to join the Delhi Durbar."

These things are far too serious for me or anybody to indulge in controversy upon, but it is a satisfaction to be able to point out to the House that the policy we instructed the Governor-General of India in Council to follow has so far worked extremely well.

I will go back to the Army. Last year when I referred to this subject I told the House that it would be my object to remove any defects that I and those who advise me might discover in the Army system, and more especially, of course, in the schemes of Lord Kitchener. Since then, with the assistance of two very important Committees, well qualified by expert military knowledge, I came to the conclusion that an improved equipment was required. Hon. Gentlemen may think that my opinion alone would not be worth much; but, after all, civilians have got to decide these questions, and, provided that they arm themselves with full expert knowledge of military authorities, it is rightly their voice which settles the matter. Certain changes were necessary in the allocation of units in order to enable the troops to be better trained, and therefore our final conclusion was that the special military expenditure shown in the financial statement must go on for some years more. But the House will see that we have arranged to cut down the rate of the annual grant, and we have taken care—and this, I think, ought to be set down to our credit—that every estimate for every item included in the programme shall be submitted to vigilant scrutiny here as well as in India. I have no prepossession in favour of military expenditure, but the pressure of facts, the pressure of the situation, the possibilities of contingencies that may arise, seem to me to make it impossible for any Government or any Minister to acquiesce in the risks on the Indian frontier. We have to consider not only our position with respect to foreign Powers on the Indian frontier, but the exceedingly complex questions that arise in connection with the turbulent border tribes. All these things make it impossible—I say nothing about internal conditions—for any Government or any Minister with a sense of responsibility to wipe out, or in a high-handed or cavalier way to deal with this military programme.

Now I come, after too long an interval, to what, I am sure, is in the minds of most Members of the House—the political and social condition of India. Lord Minto became Viceroy, I think, in November, 1905, and the present Government succeeded to power in the first week of December. Now much of the criticism which I have seen on the attitude of Lord Minto and His Majesty's Government leaves out of account the fact that Lord Minto did not come quite into a haven of serenity and peace. Very fierce monsoons had broken out on the Olympian heights at Simla, in the camps, and in the Councils at Downing Street; and this was the inheritance into which Lord Minto came—rather a formidable inheritance for which I do not, this afternoon, for one moment attempt to distribute the responsibility. Still, when Lord Minto and myself came into power our policy was necessarily guided by the conditions under which the case had been left. Our policy was to compose the unexampled conditions of controversy and confusion by which we were faced. In the famous Army case we happily succeeded. But in Eastern Bengal, for a time, we did not succeed. When I see newspaper articles beginning with the preamble that the problem of India is altogether outside Party questions, I well know from experience that that is the forerunner of a regular Party attack. It is said that there has been supineness on the part of Lord Minto and other persons—vacillation and hesitation. There have been no supineness, no vacillation, no hesitation from December, 1905, up to the present day.

I must say a single word about one episode, and it is with sincere regret I refer to it. It is called the Fuller episode. I have had the pleasure of many conversations with Sir Bampfylde Fuller since his return, and I recognise to the full his abilities, his good faith, and the dignity and self-control with which he, during all this period of controversy, has never for one moment attempted to defend himself, or to plunge into any sort of contest with the Viceroy or His Majesty's Government. I think conduct of that kind deserves our fullest recognition. I recognise to the full his gifts and his experience, but I am sure that if he were in this House he would not quarrel with me in saying that those gifts were not well adapted to the situation which he had to face. Gentlemen opposite may be inclined to take a view hostile to Lord Minto, but I would just remind them that Lord Minto, happily for me, was appointed by their own Government.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): Why should we be hostile?

Mr. MORLEY: I do not for a moment suggest that the right hon. Gentleman is hostile, but I have seen expressions of hostility from his friends. I would not dream of criticising the right hon. Gentleman nor any of his more serious friends. But that position has been taken up. What was the case? The Lieutenant-Governor suggested a certain course. The Government of India thought it was a mistake, and told him so. The Lieutenant-Governor thereupon said, "Very well, then I am afraid I must resign." There was nothing in all that except what was perfectly honourable to Sir Bampfylde Fuller. But does anybody take up this position, that if a Lieutenant-Governor says, "If I cannot have my own way I will resign," then the supreme Government of India is bound to refuse to accept that resignation? All I cay say is, and I do not care who the man may be, but if any gentleman in the Indian service says he will resign unless he can have his own way, then so far as I am concerned in the matter his resignation will be promptly and definitely accepted. It is said now that Sir Bampfylde Fuller recommended certain measures about education, and that the Government have now adopted them. That is not so. I should like to say that the circumstances are completely changed. What was thought by Lord Minto and the Government of India to be a rash and inexpedient course in those days is not thought so now that the circumstances have changed. I will only mention one point. There was a statement the other day in a very important newspaper that the condition of anti-British feeling in Eastern Bengal had gained in virulence since Sir Bampfylde Fuller's resignation. This, the Viceroy assures me, is an absolute perversion of the facts. The whole atmosphere has changed for the better. When I say that Lord Minto was justified in the course he took, I say it without any prejudice to Sir Bampfylde Fuller, or any prejudice to his future prospects.

Now I come to the subject of the disorders. I am extremely sorry to say, that disorder has broken out in the Punjab. I think I may assume that the House is aware of the general circumstances from Answers to Questions. Under the Regulation of 1818 (which is still alive) coercive measures were adopted. Here I would like to examine so far as I can the action taken to preserve the public interests. It would be quite wrong, in dealing with the unrest in the Punjab, not to mention the circumstances which provided the fuel for the agitation. There were ravages by the plague, and these ravages have been cruel. Again, the seasons have not been favourable; and a second cause was that an Act was on the anvil which was believed to be injurious to the condition of a large body of men. Those conditions affecting the Colonisation Act were greatly misrepresented. An Indian member of the Punjab Council pointed out how impolitic he thought it was; but, as I told the House about a week ago, the Viceroy, declining to be frightened by the foolish charge of pandering to agitation, and so forth, refused assent to that proposal. But in the meantime the proposal of the colonisation law had become a weapon in the hands of the preachers of sedition. I suspect that my hon. friend the Member for East Nottingham will presently get up and say that this mischief connected with the Colonisation Act accounted for the disturbance. But I call attention to this fact in order that the House may understand whether or not the Colonisation Act was the main cause of the disturbance. We submit that it was not. There were twenty-eight meetings known to have been held by the leading agitators in the Punjab between 1st March and 1st May. Of these five only related, even ostensibly, to agricultural grievances; the remaining twenty-three were all purely political. Lala Rajpat Rai took part in two of these meetings, of which one related to the Colonisation Bill, and the other was political; and Ajit Singh took part in thirteen, of which only two related to agrarian grievances, and the remaining eleven were political. I hope those who take up the position that this was an agrarian movement and not a political movement in the Punjab will see that the facts are against any such contention. The figures seem to dispose of the contention that agrarian questions are at the root of the present unrest in the Punjab. On the contrary, it rather looks as if there was a deliberate heating of the political atmosphere preparatory to the agrarian meeting at Rawalpindi on the 21st April, which gave rise to the troubles. The Lieutenant-Governor visited twenty-seven out of twenty-nine districts, SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): When was that ?

MR. MORLEY: I have not got the date by me. It was in March or April. The Lieutenant-Governor said the situation was serious, and it was growing worse. I will not publish broadcast on the floor of this House language of the kind used by Ajit Singh, which can be reproduced afterwards with perfect impunity and scattered all over India. These malicious incitements to revolt I do not think I can be an instrument in disseminating. The Lieutenant-Governor then declared that the situation was serious and ought not to go on. Sir Denzil Ibbetson described Rajpat Rai as a revolutionary and a political enthusiast who has been carried away by his theories into the most intense hatred of the British Government, but that his private character appeared to be above reproach. Sir Denzil adds that throughout the agitation he has been careful to keep himself as far as possible in the background, while engineering the systematic propagandism of the last few months. In this agitation special attention, it is stated, has been paid to the Sikhs, who, as the House is aware, are among the best soldiers in India, and in the case of Lyallpur, to the military pensioners. Special efforts have been made to secure their attendance at meetings to enlist their sympathies and to inflame their passions. So far the active agitation has been virtually confined to the districts in which the Sikh element is predominant. Printed invitations and leaflets have been principally addressed to villages held by Sikhs; and at a public meeting at Ferozepore, at which disaffection was openly preached, the men of the Sikh regiments stationed there were specially invited to attend and several hundreds of them, I confess to my amazement, acted upon the invitation. The Sikhs were told that it was by their aid, and owing to their willingness to shoot down their fellow countrymen in the Mutiny, that the Englishmen retained their hold upon India. And then a particularly vile line of argument was adopted. It was asked, "How is it that the plague attacks the Indians and not the Europeans?" "The Government," said these men, "have mysterious means of spreading the plague; the Government spreads the plague by poisoning the streams and wells." In some villages the inhabitants have actually ceased to use the wells. I was informed only the other day by an officer, who was in the Punjab at that moment, that when visiting the settlements he found the villagers disturbed in mind on this point He said to his men: "Open up your kits, and let them see whether these horrible pills are in them." The men did as they were ordered, but the suspicion was so great that they insisted upon the glasses of the telescopes being unscrewed, in order to be quite sure that there was no pill behind them But it may be asked, "Why do you not prosecute these men?" I think Sir Denzil Ibbetson gave a good reason, and for my part I entirely approve of it. They have found by experience that a prosecution advertises far and wide the matter to which objection is taken and brings it to the ears of thousands who would otherwise never have heard of it. It attracts public attention to the prosecution of men who pose as martyrs for the good of their country and people. The speeches of counsel are often even more harmful than the original libel. Then when sentences are pronounced, there are pathetic scenes in Court, the martyrs bowing their heads to receive the parting benediction of the Party leaders. They are garlanded as they mount the vehicle which is to convey them to jail; they are attended on the road by crowds who insult Europeans, and they are conducted in triumphal procession through the streets. Think of the emergency and the risk. Suppose a single native regiment had by chance sided with the rioters. A blaze might possibly have been kindled, because accidents in India may lead to dire results. It would have been absurd for us, knowing we had got a weapon there at our hands by law—not an exceptional law, but a standing law—and in the face of the risk of a conflagration, not to use that weapon; and I for one have no apology whatever to offer for using it. Nobody appreciates more than I do the danger, the mischief, the iniquity of what is called "reason of State." I know all about that. It is full of mischief and full of danger; but so is sedition, and I should have incurred criminal responsibility if I had opposed the resort to this law. A right hon. Gentleman opposite wears an ironical look. I will deal with that directly.

I do not wish to detain the House with the story of events in Eastern Bengal and Assam. They are of a different character from those in the Punjab, and in consequence of these disturbances the Government of India, with our approval, have issued an Ordinance, which I am sure the House is familiar with, under the authority and in the terms of an Act of Parliament. The course of events in Eastern Bengal appears to have been mainly this—first, attempts to impose the boycott on Mahomedans by force; secondly, complaints by Hindus if the local officials stop them, and by Mahomedans if they do not try to stop them; thirdly, retaliation by Mahomedans; fourthly, complaints by Hindus that the local officials do not protect them from this retaliation; fifthly, general lawlessness of the lower classes on both sides, encouraged by the spectacle of the fighting among the higher classes; sixthly, more complaints against the officials. The result of the Ordinance has been that down to 29th May it had not been necessary to take action in any one of these districts. I noticed the ironical look on the part of the right hon. Gentleman when I referred with perfect freedom to my assent to the resort to the weapon we had in the law against sedition, and I have had communications from friends of mine that in this assent I am outraging the principles of a lifetime. I should be ashamed if I detained the House more than two minutes on anything so small as my life. That can very well take care of itself. I began by saying that this is the first time that British democracy in its full strength, as represented in this House, is face to face with the enormous difficulties of Indian Government. Some of my hon. friends, perhaps my right hon. friend, look even more in sorrow than in anger upon this alleged backsliding of mine. Last year I told the House that India for a long time to come, so far as my imagination could reach, would be the theatre of absolute and personal government, and that raised some doubts. Reference has been made to my having resisted the Irish Crimes Act, as if there were a scandalous inconsistency between opposing the policy of that Act and imposing this policy on the natives of India and supporting the deportation of these two men, and other men who may follow if it should prove to be necessary. That inconsistency can only be established by anyone who will take up the position that Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom, is exactly on the same footing as these 300,000,000 people—composite, heterogeneous, with different histories, of different races, different faiths. Does anybody contend that any political principle is capable of application in any sort of circumstances without reference to conditions? I, at all events, have never taken that view, and I would like to assure my hon friends that in such ideas as I have about political principles the leader of my generation was Mr. Mill. Mr. Mill was a great and benignant lamp of wisdom and humanity, and I and others kindled our modest rushlights at that lamp. What did Mill say about the government of India? Remember, he was not only that abject being, a philosopher, but practised in government, responsible, experienced, concerned in the government of India. What did he say? If there is anybody who can be quoted as having been a champion of representative government it is Mill; and in his book, which, I take it, is still the classic book on that subject, this is what he says—

> "Government by the dominant country is as legitimate as any other, if it is the one which in the existing state of civilization of the subject people most facilitates their transition to a higher state of civilization."

Then he says this—

> "The ruling country ought to be able to do for its subjects all that could be done by a succession of absolute monarchs guaranteed by irresistible force against the precariousness of tenure attendant on barbarous despotisms, and qualified by their genius to anticipate all that experience has taught to the more advanced nations. If we do not attempt to realize this ideal we are guilty of a dereliction of the highest moral trust that can devolve upon a nation."

I will ask the attention of the House for a moment while I examine a group of communications from officers of the Indian Government, and if the House will allow me I will tell them what to my mind is the result of all these communications as to the general feeling in India; for that, after all, is what most concerns us. For this unrest in the Punjab and Bengal sooner or later—and sooner, rather than later, I hope—will pass away. What is the situation of India generally in the view of these experienced officers at this moment? I ask the House to bear with me when I say that even now when we are passing through all our stress and anxiety it is a mistake not to look at the thing rather largely. They all admit that there is a fall in the influence of European officers over the population. They all, or nearly all, admit that there is estrangement—I ought to say, perhaps, refrigeration—between officers and people. There is less sympathy between the Government and the people. For the last few years—this is a very important point—the doctrine of administrative efficiency has been pressed too hard. The wheels of the huge machine have been driven too fast. Our administration—so shrewd observers and very experienced observers assure me—would be a great deal more popular if it was a trifle less efficient, a trifle more elastic generally. We ought not to put mechanical efficiency at the head of our ideas. But I am leading up to a practical point. The district officers representing British rule to the majority of the people of India are overloaded with work in their official relations. These relations we know are more likely to be disagreeable than agreeable, and I know there are highly experienced gentlemen who say that a little of the looseness of earlier days is better fitted than the regular system of latter days to win and to keep personal influence, and that we are in danger of creating a pure bureaucracy. Honourable, faithful, and industrious the servants of the State in India are and will be, but if the present system is persisted in they are likely to become rather mechanical, rather lifeless, perhaps I might even say rather soulless; and attention to this is urgently demanded. Perfectly efficient administration I need not tell the House has a tendency to lead to over-centralisation, it is inevitable. The tendency in India is to override local authority and to force administration to run in official grooves. For my own part I spare no pains to improve our relations with native Governments, and more and more these relations may become of potential value to the Government of India. I would use my best endeavours to make these States independent in matters of administration, but all evidence tends to show we are rather making administration less personal, though evidence also tends to show that the Indian people are peculiarly responsive to sympathy and personal influence. Do not let us waste ourselves in controversy, here or elsewhere, or in mere anger; let us try to draw to our side those men who now influence the people. I believe for my part that most of the people of India are on our side. I do not say for a moment that they like us; but no matter; they know that their whole interest is bound up with the law and order we preserve.

But I will come to my point. There is a Motion on the Paper for an inquiry by means of a Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission into the causes at the root of the dissatisfaction. Now, I have often thought, while at the India Office, whether it would be a good thing to have an inquiry by committee or commission. I have considered this, and I have discussed this with others; and I have come to the conclusion that such inquiry would not produce any of the advantages such as were gained in the old days of old committees, and certainly would be attended by many drawbacks. But I have determined, after consulting with the Viceroy, that considerable advantage might be gained by a Royal Commission to examine, with the experience we have gained over many years, into this great mischief—for everybody knows, all the people in India who have any responsibility, that it is a great mischief—of over-centralisation. It seemed a great mischief to so acute a man as Sir Henry Maine, who, after many years experience, wrote expressing agreement with what Mr. John Bright said just before or just after the Mutiny, that the centralised government of India was too much power for any man to work. Now, when two men, quite unlike in temperament and training, agreed as to the evil of centralisation on this large scale, it makes one reflect. I will not undertake at the present time to refer to the Commission the large questions which were spoken of by Sir H. Maine and Mr. Bright, but I do think that much might be gained by an inquiry on the spot into the working of centralisation of government in India, and how, in the opinions of trained men here and in India, the mischief might be alleviated.

But that is not a question before us now. You often hear people talk of the educated section of the people of India as a mere handful, an infinitesimal fraction; and so they are, in numbers; but it is idle to say, fatally idle to say, that this infinitesimal fraction does not count. This educated section makes all the difference, is making and will make all the difference. That they would attack the British system of government has been long known, it was inevitable. There need be no surprise in the fact that they want a share in political influence, they want a share in the emoluments of administration. Their means—many of them—are scanty; they have little to lose and much to gain from revolutionary changes. They see that the British hand works the State machine surely and smoothly, and they think, having no fear of race animosities, that their hand could work the machine as surely and as smoothly as the British hand. From my observations I should say they could not do it for a week; it would break down.

But now I come to my last point. Last autumn the Governor-General appointed a Committee of the Executive Council to consider the development of the administrative machinery, and at the end of March last he publicly informed his Legislative Council that he had sent home a despatch to the Secretary of State proposing suggestions for a move in advance. This was not in accordance with instructions from us; it emanated entirely from the Government of India. Now let us consider this. The Viceroy with a liberal—I do not use the word in a Party sense—with a liberal courageous mind entered deliberately on the path of improvement. The public in India were aware of it. They waited, and are now waiting the result with the liveliest interest and curiosity. Meanwhile the riots happened in Rawalpindi, in Lahore. After these riots broke out, what was the course we ought to take? Some in this country lean to the opinion—and it is excusable—that the riots ought to suspend all suggestions and talk of reform. Sir, His Majesty's Government considered this view, and in the end they took, very determinedly, the opposite view. They held that such a withdrawal from a line of policy suggested by the Governor-General would, of course, have been construed as a truimph for the party of sedition. They held that, to draw back on account of local and sporadic disturbances, however serious, anxious, and troublesome they might be, would have been a very grave humiliation. To hesitate to make a beginning with our own policy of improving the administrative machinery of the Indian Government would have been taken as a sign of nervousness, trepidation, and fear; and fear, which is always unworthy in any Government, is in the Indian Government, not only unworthy, but extremely dangerous. I hope the House concurs with His Majesty's Government. In answer to a Question the other day, I warned one or two of my hon. friends that, in resisting the employment of powers to suppress disturbances under the Regulation of 1818 or by any other lawful weapon we could find, they were promoting the success of that disorder, which would be entirely fatal to all their projects with which they sympathised. The despatch reached us in due course. It was considered by the Council of India and by His Majesty's Government, and our reply was sent about a fortnight ago. Someone will ask—Are you going to lay these two despatches on the Table to-day? I hope the House will not take it amiss if I say that at this stage—perhaps at all stages—it would be wholly disadvantageous to lay these despatches on the Table. We are in the middle of the discussion to-day, and it would break up the continuity if we had a premature discussion *coram populo.* Every one will understand that discussions of this kind must be very delicate, and it is of the utmost importance that these discussions should be conducted with entire freedom. But, to use a word that I do not often use, I might adumbrate the proposals. This is how the case stands. The despatch reached His Majesty's Government, who considered it; and we then set out our views upon the points raised in the despatch. The Government of India will now frame what is called a Resolution. That draft Resolution, when framed by them in conformity with the instructions of His Majesty's Government, will in due course be sent here. We shall consider that draft, and then it will be my duty to present it to this House if legislation is necessary, as it probably will be; and it will be published in India to be discussed there by all those concerned. The proposals I would adumbrate are these. We have given approval to the establishment of an advisory Council of Notables Those who are acquainted with Indian affairs will recollect that Lord Lytton in 1877 set up a council of this kind. It was a complete failure.

EARL PERCY: Was it actually brought into existence?

MR. MORLEY: I think so, but it never did any good. Then Lord Curzon had the idea of a council, but I think the scope was limited to business connected with the Imperial Service Troops. The Council of Notables would have a much wider scope. It would be purely advisory, but would serve the double purpose of eliciting independent opinion and of diffusing, what is most important of all, correct information as to the acts and intentions of Government. It is remarkable how the Government, on the one hand, knows so little of the mind of the people, and it is deplorable, on the other hand, that the people know so very little about the mind of the Government. It is a tremendous chasm that we have to bridge; and whether political machinery can ever bridge it I know not. The second proposal is the acceptance of the general principle of a substantial enlargement of the Legislative Councils, both the Governor-General's Legislative Council and the Provincial Legislative Councils. Details of this reform have to be further discussed in consultation with the local Governments in India, but an official majority must be maintained. Thirdly, in the discussion of the Budget in the Viceroy's Council the subjects are to be grouped and explained severally by the members of Council in charge of the Departments, and longer time is to be allowed for this detailed discussion and for general debate. One more thing. The Secretary of State has the privilege of nominating members of the Council of India. I think that the time has now come when the Secretary of State may safely, wisely, and justly nominate one, and it may be two, Indian members. I will not discuss the question now. I may have to come to Parliament at a later stage, but I think it is right to say that that is my intention, realising how few opportunities the governing bodies have of hearing the voice of Indians.

I think I have defended myself from ignoring the principle that there is a difference between the Western European and the Indian Asiatic. There is a vital difference, and it is infatuation to ignore it. But there is another vital fact—namely, that the Indian Asiatic is a man with very vivid susceptibilities of all kinds, and with great traditions of a civilisation of his own; and we are bound to treat him with the same kind of respect and kindness and sympathy that we should expect to be treated with ourselves. Only the other day I saw a letter from General Gordon to a friend of mine. He wrote—

> "To govern men, there is but one way, and it is eternal truth. Get into their skins; try to realise their feelings. That is the true secret of government."

That is not only a great ethical, but a great political law, and I hope that in all we do it will not be forgotten. It would be folly to pretend to any dogmatic assurance—and I certainly do not—as to the course of the future in India. But for to-day anybody who takes part in the rule of India, whether as a Minister or as a Member of the House of Commons participating in the discussion on affairs in India—anyone who wants to take a fruitful part in such discussions, if he does his duty will found himself on the assumption that the British rule will continue, ought to continue, and must continue. There is, I know, a school—I do not think it has any representatives in this House—who say that we might wisely walk out of India and leave it, and that the Indians would manage their own affairs better than we can manage them for them. I think anybody who pictures to himself the anarchy, the bloody chaos that would follow from any such deplorable step, would shrink from any such decision. We, at all events—the Ministry and the Members of this House—are bound to take a completely different view. I believe that certainly the Government, and I believe certainly this House in all its parties and groups, is determined that we ought to face, that we do face, all these mischiefs and difficulties and dangers of which I have been speaking with a clear conscience. We know that we are not doing it for our own interest, but for the interest of the millions committed to us; and we ought to face it with a clear conscience, with sympathy, with kindness, with firmness, with a love of justice, and, whether the weather be fair or foul, in a valiant and hopeful spirit.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts)."

*EARL PERCY: The statement of the right hon. Gentleman is, in its financial aspect, so satisfactory that I should waste the time of the House if I were to elaborate in less well chosen language conclusions which the right hon. Gentleman has drawn, in his picturesque and comprehensive review of the situation. I shall therefore pass at once to the subjects which formed the greater part of his speech and were of most interest to the House. First of all I should like to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on the firmness with which he and the Government of India have acted in the recent emergency. The right hon. Gentleman has been at some pains to show that they went to the utmost limits of forbearance before putting into force the exceptional powers with which the law entrusts them, and which are nowhere more necessary than they are in India. If there is any doubt in the mind of most people either at home or in India, it is that perhaps action was too long deferred, and that hesitation to adopt measures for checking the propagation of sedition, especially in the schools a year ago in Eastern Bengal, may have been, in spite of what the right hon. Gentleman has said, to some extent responsible for the necessity in which the Government find themselves of having to enforce those identical measures on an even larger scale at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman says that the situation with which they are confronted now is entirely different from that with which they were confronted in Eastern Bengal at the time of Sir Bampfylde Fuller's resignation. That may be the case, and I certainly have no desire to challenge the manner in which the Executive thought fit to exercise its discretion. I should like, however, to observe that the events connected with Sir Bampfylde Fuller's resignation—which he never discussed in public himself, and which the Party on this side of the House, owing to their consistent desire not to embarrass the Government, refrained from raising—and the recent circular issued by the Viceroy—apparently freeing the provincial Governments from restrictions hitherto placed on their liberty of action in dealing with seditious utterances and writings in the Press, seem to me to suggest that there has been too little close and continuous co-operation between the central and the provincial Governments of India, and too great a tendency on the part of the former to a fitful and spasmodic exercise of its authority. I hope I am right in understanding that the inquiry which the right hon. Gentleman has suggested has no connection with the inquiry which is mentioned in the Amendment on the Paper.

MR. MORLEY was understood to assent.

*EARL PERCY: I should regard an inquiry of that kind as utterly mischevious; but I understand that the inquiry which the right hon. Gentleman contemplates is not to be concerned with the policy either of the central Government or of the provincial Governments or with the manner in which they have carried out that policy. Its sole object, as I understand it, is to devise methods by which the financial and executive authority of the provincial Governments may be enlarged, and by which the accumulation and congestion of business at Calcutta may be relieved.

MR. MORLEY: I certainly did not accept the Amendment, but I do not want to tie my hands in regard to it.

*EARL PERCY: I do not want to tie the right hon. Gentleman. All I wish to make clear is that this inquiry is concerned with administrative machinery, and has no reference to political disturbances or the causes of unrest.

MR. MORLEY: No.

*EARL PERCY: I do not feel quite certain that a Royal Commission is a better instrument for that purpose than would be a Commission appointed by the Government of India itself; but if the right hon. Gentleman has decided in favour of a Royal Commission, I hope he will take care that it is practically confined to people who have now, or have recently had, actual experience of administration in India.

MR. MORLEY: Either here or there.

*EARL PERCY: I agree. Whatever defects there may be in the machinery of administration, it is, at all events, remarkable testimony to the confidence which men of all Parties in this country feel in the handful of men to whom is entrusted the burden of British rule in India that, from first to last, throughout recent events public opinion has refused, and rightly refused, to take an alarmist view of the situation. And, whatever other moral may be drawn from those events, nothing can be more encouraging than the manifestations of loyalty which they have evoked from the leaders of almost every section of native opinion, whether Sikh, Rajput, or Mahomedan. It is obvious that the stories to which the right hon. Gentleman has alluded came from the same mint as the scandalous accusations which were trumped up a few years ago against the British soldiers engaged in plague operations at Poona; and, while I quite agree that we need not lash ourselves into any unnecessary anger or fury, I do hope the Government of India will devote their utmost efforts to tracing those stories to their source, and will punish their authors as they deserve. I think the right hon. Gentleman has pointed out with unanswerable force the objection there would be to a prosecution in cases of arrest and deportation like those of Lajpat Rai and other ringleaders; but do not the same arguments apply with equal force to the present method of proceeding against seditious language in the native Press? Prosecution is in very many cases precisely what the local newspaper desires; and I cannot help thinking that power ought to be given to the local Governments, if they do not possess it, to suppress a paper after sufficient warning if it persists in disregarding that warning, without any preliminary prosecution at all. With regard to the reorganisation of the sanitary staff in India, I hope that the right hon. Gentleman will consider the desirability of enlisting a certain number of trained native assistants. Passing to the question of reform I suspect that a good many people will think that the concession of any reforms at the present moment is injudicious because it is almost certain to be very widely described as a concession to agitation. I do not approach the question from that point of view, partly for the reason which the right hon. Gentleman stated, but partly also because I hold very strongly the view that the demands put forward by the party of reform in India are totally inadmissible, and therefore if I thought the changes contemplated by the right hon. Gentleman were calculated in any degree to further their aims and objects, I should regard them with equal disapproval and hostility whether they were introduced now, or at a later period. Of course, when I say the demands are inadmissible I do not refer to the demand made for a larger employment of natives in the detailed work of administration. That is a natural and laudable aspiration with which everybody must sympathise, and every effort has been made to give effect to it. Already by far the larger number of provincial posts are held by natives, and a considerable number of the higher posts, especially in the judiciary, are in native hands also. But the demands, even of the moderate section of the Reform Party in Congress, go much further than that. What they really demand is the establishment, sooner or later, of Parliamentary institutions, and the substitution for autocratic rule of the system of government by majorities. The right hon. Gentleman has said that for as long a time as he can foresee British rule in India must be personal and autocratic. I should be inclined to go still further and say that for all time the attempt to govern by majorities in India must in the nature of things be doomed to failure. It is not that we distrust the loyalty of the Indian people. It is not that they are deficient in education or backward in political training. These defects might be corrected by a gradual concession of responsibility, and have never been admitted to be a barrier to the grant of considerable powers of self-government in municipal affairs. The real difficulty, the impossibility, lies in the two facts which are at the root of the Indian problem, and which differentiate it from any other. The first is that India is not a homogeneous nationality with common sentiments and aspirations, but a congerie of races animated to a large extent by different and even antagonistic ideals, and only deterred, as we see in Eastern Bengal, by the constant interposition of the Central Power from attempting to force their own ideas on other people by violent means. The second is that in this congeries of races nature has chosen to assign the qualities that make for physical predominance to the races which are neither intellectually the most versatile nor the largest in point of numbers. The result is, as it seems to me, that any attempt to govern India on the principle of government by majorities must mean the government of the strong by the weak, a government which could not exist for a day except by the support of British bayonets, of that very Army which is described by the reformers as the instrument of an alien Power. When we are told that British rule is not popular in India, it may be so. I do not believe any western Government is exactly popular with an Oriental people, and I am not sure that they are likely to feel any greater respect for it when it displays so constant a tendency to self-accusation and self-examination, and has such a perfect passion for conducting those operations in public. I daresay our rule is not in the strict sense of the word popular, though I do not believe it that is unpopular; but if you wish to devise a means of making it not merely unpopular, but absolutely abhorrent to the people of India, I can imagine nothing more certain to effect that object than a system under which British authority would be utilised in order to force upon a number of proud and warlike races a Government of intellectuals which they not only hate but despise, and which, so far as those races are concerned, would be no whit less foreign than we are ourselves. If that premise be granted, if Parliamentary institutions are clearly impossible, surely we are deluding ourselves as well as the Indian people if we induce them to believe that the changes adumbrated to-day, or any changes that we can ever introduce, will carry us a single step further in the direction of the real aims of the Congress party. It seems to me to be much better to lay it down at the outset that we start with a wholly different objective, and that however true in the abstract it may be to say, as the Prime Minister said last year—and a most unfortunate observation, I think it was—"that good government is no substitute for self-government," so far as India, at all events, is concerned, it is good government and not self-government that we have in view. And if this be the case, if, in the words of the King's Speech, we can allow nothing which would weaken the strength and unity of the executive power, then it seems to me that any changes that we can introduce into the Councils at home or in India must be framed with the object not of giving these Councils any share in the control of policy, but of making them, if possible, more useful as advisory bodies. I now come to the three reforms which the right hon. Gentleman sketched out. The first was the creation of what he calls a Council of Notables. I do not think that is a fortunate name. My impression is that when this scheme was mooted by Lord Lytton his idea was to provide a means of consulting the ruling chiefs, and as they would form the bulk of this Council, I think that would be a more appropriate designation. It is an idea which has a great sentimental attraction, and I can imagine that such a Council once initiated might develop into an institution of great practical utility. It would afford the Viceroy an opportunity of consulting collectively the natural leaders of Indian opinion, and those chiefs themselves might welcome the opportunity for a mutual interchange of opinion amongst themselves. But it is manifestly a reform the practicability of which depends on the manner in which it presents itself to the minds of the chiefs themselves, and I do not imagine that the right hon. Gentleman will take any step in that direction without ascertaining that the step he is taking has their cordial sympathy and approval. Then comes the question of appointing natives to seats on the Council of the Secretary of State at home. That is, no doubt, a change in one sense, but not in another. I think it has certain advantages, and I believe it would probably be useful to the Secretary of State, that he should have a readier access to the opinions of those who would

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look at Indian questions from a somewhat different standpoint from those who form the large majority of his Council. But it is not a change in principle. I do not know that there is anything in the existing Act of Parliament which makes it impossible to appoint natives to seats on the Council, and I do not understand that the right hon. Gentleman means to make any change in the law as regards either the numbers or qualifications of members of Council.

MR. MORLEY: It might be possible to add to the number, but I am not sure. The noble Lord is aware that the number cannot be less than ten or more than twelve. It might be desirable to make a change of that character.

*EARL PERCY: The right hon. Gentleman's observation has a bearing on what I was going to say. There are two practical difficulties. One is that the number of seats on the Council now is by no means too large to insure the presence of men who have had practical experience of the different conditions of administration prevailing in various parts of India, and the other is that you may not find it easy to induce men of the requisite standing to abandon their professional career in India in order to serve on the Council in England for five or ten years. No one would suggest that if the best men are not available you should go out of your way to appoint a man of inferior stamp merely on the ground of his race or colour. That would be not only detrimental to the public service, but retrograde in principle. But if the right hon. Gentleman does not fetter in any way the discretion of those who may succeed him in his present office, I think there would be some advantage and very little or no disadvantage in the change which he suggests. I now come to the reforms affecting the Legislative Council. I am afraid I did not quite catch the right hon. Gentleman's definition of the change he proposes to make in the powers which are exercised by that Council. He talked of a longer time for discussion. I do not quite know what that implies—whether it means that the discussion of the Budget is to follow a different mode of procedure and whether Members will have an opportunity of discussing it in detail instead of *en bloc* as they do now.

MR. MORLEY: The discussion will be under the heads of the Budget, and the details under those heads.

*EARL PERCY: That is a change to which I see no objection in principle, though I am somewhat doubtful of its expediency. The object of discussing the Budget as a whole is to give the members of the Legislative Council an opportunity of discussing the general policy of the Government. The object and effect of discussing the Budget under separate heads will be to focus discussion on particular taxes, and particular points of policy. This is a power which it may be advisable to entrust, and indeed necessary to entrust to an assembly like the House of Commons, or any other constitutional assembly in western countries, which has supreme control over expenditure and taxation, and in which, moreover, the task of criticism is discharged by those who act with the knowledge that if they carry their point they may themselves be called upon to undertake the responsibility of framing a Budget. That will not be the case in the Legislative Council, where the members have no control over taxation or expenditure, where they cannot even move Amendments, and where, if they had any such control, it would be in my opinion purely mischievous, for the very reason that it would necessarily be divorced from any sense of responsibility. I am, therefore, quite unable to see any practical advantage which will be obtained by the discussion of the Budget in detail which is not already secured by its discussion as a whole; while, on the other hand, I am afraid it is precisely the kind of change which will inevitably be regarded in India as a mere concession in name to a demand, the substance of which we are unable and unwilling to grant. But the change in the composition of the Legislative Council is a matter of even greater importance. I think there is a good deal to be said for the view that the Legislative Council would be more useful as an advisory body if it were more directly representative. It is unrepresentative now, not because it does not represent the majority, but because it does not make sufficient provision for the representation of important classes and minorities. If the right hon. Gentleman can see his way to devise a means of securing that representation I think he will have introduced a salutary reform. But there are certain considerations which I think ought to be borne in mind before the right hon. Gentleman commits himself to details. If you are to secure any adequate or fair representation of these minorities, it is obvious that such representation must be based to some extent on racial and religious qualifications which have not hitherto obtained any constitutional recognition That is inevitable, but I think it would be extremely inadvisable that the Viceroy should be mixed up more than is necessary with appointments of that kind, and exposed to the charge of partiality and favouritism. I hope, therefore, that in any arrangement made by the right hon. Gentleman for securing the representation of minorities he will try to avoid as far as possible the machinery of nomination by the Viceroy, and obtain the result by the creation of special constituencies. Then there is another point—the effect which this change may have on the proportion between the official and the non-official members of the Council. It is very important, I think, that in a change of this kind we should not begin by making concessions, the abuse of which might necessitate their subsequent withdrawal. At the present moment, if the Indian Government avails itself of its full legal powers, and assigns half of the additional seats to officials, it can be sure of securing a majority of eight on a Council of twenty-four—the proportion being sixteen to eight. But as a matter of fact the Viceroy has not done so. He has assigned many of the additional seats to non-official members, and the consequence is that at the present moment the Government of India have only a majority of four, the present proportion of official to non-official members being fourteen to ten. I do not think that anybody can reasonably contend that four is an excessive number, if you are to be sure of a working majority. It is quite true that the Viceroy possesses in the last resort the power of veto; he can always over-rule his council; but it is obviously undesirable that he should be driven to exercise that power oftener than is necessary, and therefore, I think that it would probably be injudicious to reduce the standing majority below its present figure. Lastly, I come to the question of the numerical size of the Council. Whatever defects in their constitution there may be, I believe everybody acknowledges that in their practical working the Legislative Councils both of the Governor-General and of the Provincial Governors have been a conspicuous success. I am afraid that there is a certain risk that if you enlarge the number of members of those Councils you may make them unworkable and unwieldy, and impair their legislative efficiency. When proposals of that kind were pressed upon the Government in 1892, they were rejected on grounds which I think have great force now, although no doubt there may be a good deal to be said on the other side. It was pointed out that an increase in the number of members was really unnecessary; that the Viceroy's Council had not to do the kind of work which Parliamentary bodies elsewhere have to do; that a great deal of the detailed examination has already been performed in the Provincial Councils; and that consequently when the measures are afterwards introduced into the Council at Calcutta there is not the same need of a large number of members for committee work. It was pointed out again that the change must involve a large increase of expenditure, because, although members of Council do not have salaries paid to them, yet they are entitled to have the cost of travelling and of residence in Calcutta defrayed out of the Public Exchequer. As regards the official members, obviously any change of that kind, any increase in the total number of the members of the Council, must necessitate a corresponding increase in the number of official members who would be taken away from their offices and administrative duties, which in itself would be an evil; and as regards non-official members, there would probably be a considerable difficulty. Lord Northbrook expressed the opinion that it would be absolutely impossible to get competent men, and especially business men, to spare two or three months in the year, which would be necessary in order to attend the Council in Calcutta. I do not say for a moment that these objections are insuperable, but I have no doubt that they will be duly weighed by the right hon. Gentleman before he commits himself to a considerable expansion in the size of the Legislative Councils. And now I pass to a subject more directly connected with the Budget—I mean the reduction of the salt tax by another eight annas. This is the third reduction of the salt tax, as the right hon. Gentleman pointed out, in five years. It involves a cost of £3,250,000 of revenue. In one sense I agree with the right hon. Gentleman, who views this reduction with unqualified satisfaction, but in another sense I do not. It seems to me that the very fact that the relief from the reduction is so widespread and practically co-extensive with the population is an argument, considering the extreme diversity in the condition of the populations at different times in different parts of India, against resorting more frequently than necessary to this particular method of relieving taxation. When you remember that the incidence of the salt tax per head of the population has been computed at 4d. a year it can hardly be described as oppressive. I do not want to challenge this particular reduction, but what I do want to say is, in view of what the right hon. Gentleman said last year, that I sincerely hope that it is not to be taken as an earnest of the total abolition of the tax, which, I believe, in the interests of India, would be a serious step to take. This tax is the only one to which everybody in India can be made to contribute; it is the only one which could be readily expanded in order to meet an emergency. The Indian revenue system is based very largely on the condition of one particular industry, the prosperity of which fluctuates from year to year, and on which you dare not reckon with certainty; and when we bear in mind the fact that if you once do away with the salt tax altogether it would be difficult if not impossible for any Government to re-impose it. I think that is a very strong argument against departing from the principle laid down years ago in the despatch of the Secretary of State in 1869, as the principle which ought to govern reductions of the salt tax, namely, that the expediency of such reductions should be directly gauged and tested by the effect which they produce in increasing consumption. There is another reason why I should regard the abolition of the salt tax with dismay, and that is the enormous demands likely to be made upon the Government for fresh expenditure, and the probable loss of important sources of revenue upon which they have hitherto been able to rely. Mr. Baker has pointed out that during the last five years, whilst you have surrendered revenue to the amount of £4,500,000 in relief of taxation, you have committed yourselves to fresh expenditure of an almost equivalent amount upon military reorganisation, education, agricultural development, and such like, and this apart from grants of a temporary and non-recurring character. Besides all this there is a sum of £3,500,000 which it will probably be necessary to borrow or spend out of revenue for the provision of rolling stock which is urgently required, in addition to large expenditure which will be entailed in the near future in connection with sanitary improvements. That is a serious outlook. I do not think that anybody will deny that these items of expenditure are all necessary and even urgent. But there is another form of expenditure which I understand the Government contemplate, and which seems to me neither necessary nor desirable—I mean the expenditure in connection with free education. I was perusing the other day the circular which has been issued by the Government of India, and I thought the propositions laid down in that circular to justify free education were singularly unconvincing. Free education would be an entire departure from the principle on which the Government of India have hitherto acted. The principle hitherto has been that no school in India should receive any aid which does not charge fees, whereas the new policy contemplated is that no school should receive any grant unless fees are altogether abolished. The Government say that the old idea that fees were necessary to stimulate interest in education has been disproved by experience in Europe and by the fact that the non-charging of fees in native Sanskrit and Buddhist schools has not produced any falling off in attendance. But the first argument ignores the fact that in Europe free education was preceded by compulsory education, which in India is admittedly impossible; while the second tells against rather than in favour of the inference which the Government have drawn from it. The very fact that it has only been found possible to dispense with fees in India in the case of schools which give religious teaching shows not only that you cannot count upon the same results following from an extension of the same principle to secular schools but that if the Government carry out this new policy they will run a grave risk of destroying just that part of the educational system which appeals most strongly to the religious instincts of the people. It is from this point of view that I regard this policy with the most profound misgivings. The Government admit that this policy will probably result in the ruin of the unaided schools which would have to have the option of being converted into aided schools, and even the aided schools are bound ultimately to be absorbed into the board school system. In other words this policy of free education cannot be carried out without, in the long run, involving the extinction of those schools which desire to be independent, largely because they value the religious teaching given, and are therefore obliged to rely upon the fees which are drawn from the poorest of the population. What schools will these be? In many parts of India they will be the schools of the Mahomedan community. It has often been laid to their charge that they are educationally backward, and there is no doubt some truth in the statement. But what is the reason? The Mahomedan conception of education is fundamentally different from that of the Hindu. The view of the latter is almost entirely secular, but the view of the Mahomedan is profoundly denominational, and it is just because the Mahomedan values denominational teaching while the State in regard to religion preserves an attitude of complete neutrality, giving no religious teaching of any kind in its own schools, that a State system of education in India must be regarded with suspicion, if not with active hostility, by millions of the most loyal of His Majesty's subjects. I hope, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman will consider this question very carefully before he proceeds any further in this direction. I quite agree that the ignorance of the population is one of the greatest dangers to British rule, and a fertile source of suspicions which give rise to agitation. But let us take care that in attempting to remove the suspicions which have their root in ignorance we do not give rise to the more dangerous suspicions which arise from religious prejudice. It is quite obvious that, in a country like India, where you cannot have compulsory education, and where large masses of the people are debarred by religious considerations from taking advantage of the facilities you offer, free education will in reality be a tax upon the many for the benefit of the few. Greatly as I am in favour of spreading education in India, I do think it is already too much divorced from religious teaching and even moral training. The Government will be much more likely to popularise education by extending the system of grants-in-aid to the schools of the native religious communities than by attempting to foist upon the whole population a State system which runs counter to prejudices very deeply ingrained. I have some difficulty in understanding what is the opium policy of the Government. Last year, on the eve of the Whitsuntide adjournment in a very thin House, the House of Commons committed itself to the proposition that the opium traffic was immoral. So far as I can ascertain, the Government are not going to act in the spirit of that Resolution. They are not going to stop the traffic, and the reduction of cultivation in India is to be strictly dependent upon the action which China takes to reduce the amount of her internal cultivation. That is quite incompatible with the theory that the opium traffic is immoral, that it has been forced upon China against her will, and that our treaties are mainly responsible for the evils of which she complains. If that were the case, the only logical course would be to prohibit the cultivation and sale of opium in India, and repeal the treaties of Tien-sin and Chefoo. But the Government do not propose to take that course. The theory on which apparently the Government has acted has nothing to do with morality or immorality, but is founded on the proposition that China has a right to stop the traffic if she pleases, and that we should do nothing to make it difficult to carry out that object. The action of the Indian Government in reducing the area of cultivation is premature. The first step ought to have been taken by China herself, and our Government ought to have waited until they saw what was the practical effect of that action. Beyond issuing the edict, China has done practically nothing. A precisely similar edict was issued in 1882 prohibiting the cultivation of opium, and Mr. Hosie, our Consular agent, reported as follows—

> "I have noticed in several places a proclamation dated the 9th November, 1882, by the Governor-General of Szechuan prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy and enjoining a more extended sowing of the cereals. It was always more or less mutilated, whether intentionally or not I cannot say. At all events poppy was frequently growing on the side of the road opposite to that on which the proclamation was posted. It is one thing to issue instructions—another to see they are carried out."

And writing on the 3rd of June, 1883, he says—

> "The whole country reeks and stinks of opium."

In the light of past experience I think we should have delayed action in India until we had some evidence of practical results from the issue of this new edict. China is not the only country to be considered in the matter. The right hon. Gentleman alluded to-day to the International Commission on which I understand His Majesty's Government as well as the Government of the United States is to be represented to consider the opium traffic. He said he believed that most of the larger States were to be represented, and I should be interested to know whether the Government of Persia is to be represented on the Commission. There is a very large area of opium cultivation in French Indo-China and there are considerable possibilities of opium cultivation in Persia. I noticed a statement in *The Times* recently that the Persians were eagerly looking out to see what the diminution in the Indian cultivation was to be in order to supply the deficiency themselves.

AN HON. MEMBER: To confirm the noble Lord I may say that the poppy is already extensively grown there.

*EARL PERCY: The hon. Member is acquainted with a part of Persia with which I am not familiar. It seems to me that the Government ought to have some security that simultaneous action will be taken by the States in the vicinity of China before we commit ourselves to definite action. My second contention is that by reducing the area of cultivation, the Government are inflicting very great hardship on India, with a minimum of advantage to the cause of morality in China. It is necessary first of all to examine in what respect the right hon. Gentleman's policy really marks a new departure. The change does not consist in the curtailment of the amount that is sold, because I believe it has long been the policy of the Indian Government—I think ever since 1893—to reduce the export. But at the same time that they have reduced the export they have deliberately increased the area of cultivation, and that policy when challenged in this House was always defended on the ground that its object was not to push the sale of opium, but merely to prevent the violent fluctuations in price which would result from a temporary shortage in the crop, either in China or India, by keeping a stock in reserve equivalent to a six months' supply. What will be the effect of departing from that policy? If China fails to keep her word or is unable to enforce the edict on her own people, and if other neighbouring States take up the cultivation of opium on their own account, manifestly the result will be that in normal years you will have a far larger area of cultivation and a far greater consumption of the drug than you have at the present moment, and in abnormal years when there is a shortage you will have an enormous increase, as you have had recently, I observe, in the Straits Settlements, of smuggling and of the use of the far more deleterious narcotic morphia. But after all, the interests of morality in China, great as they are, I confess, do not stir me to the same extent as the interests of the Indian people themselves. What is going to be the effect of this policy on India? It is quite true that the opium revenue does not bear so large a proportion to the total revenue as it formerly did. It is still very considerable. It amounts to £3,500,000 a year, and I do not think that anyone who reads the statement of Mr. Baker can fail to perceive that he does not regard the surrender of the opium revenue with anything like a feeling of equanimity. His argument, if I remember aright, was that it might be acquiesced in provided that it was done sufficiently slowly. But the loss to India would be not merely the loss of revenue. There is the loss to the shipping trade and the loss of a valuable staple export. The Party opposite ought to be particularly careful how they compromise the capacity of India to pay her debts by exports. The opium export trade represents a value of £6,000,000 a year, and if you take in the by-products—the seeds used for food and lighting, soap, varnish, and other chemical preparations—it amounts to a considerably larger figure than that. In addition to that you have the loss to the cultivators themselves—a loss which, I think, is calculated by one speaker in the Legislative Council at £1,500,000 in wages to the Bengal cultivators alone. It is all very well to say, "After all, if we deprive the Indian Government of their opium crop they can grow another crop." It is the same kind of argument that we hear in regard to the fiscal policy. It is the argument which is used by people who are not themselves concerned. But you have to find a crop which is capable of succeeding an autumn crop of Indian corn—and one of such value that it will carry the same wage bill. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman has made any independent attempt to calculate the total loss imposed on India by the carrying out of this policy, but it has been calculated by Sir John Strachey at £12,500,000, of which £7,000,000 is debited to the Bengal crop alone. I will not elaborate that further. I now come to the conclusion of my argument. I come to the observation made by the right hon. Gentleman in the form of a warning, but from which he abstained from drawing the logical inference. If this policy is to be carried out it ought not to be carried out, at all events, wholly at the expense of the Indian people. We must face the fact that it is a policy forced on India. [Cries of "No."] India would never adopt it of her own free will. It is forced on India in order to gratify a number of sentimentalists at home. [Cries of "Oh!"] I do not use the word "sentimentalists" in a bad sense. Most of the people who are opposed to the opium traffic are earnest religious people, but I say that this policy is forced on India in order to gratify the sentiments of people at home. It is a policy which for that reason is precisely analogous to the repatriation of the labourers engaged in the mines of the Transvaal. But in that case you did provide the cost of repatriation yourselves. Why? Only for one reason, that the Legislature of the Transvaal declined to accept the liability themselves. [An HON. MEMBER: "No."] The fact was stated in a despatch of Lord Selborne's and admitted in this House. Under these circumstances, if we refuse to adopt a similar course in India, I do not see how we can honestly clear ourselves of the imputation that we are forcing this policy on India entirely at her expense, because India has not the rights which a self-governing community possess. I think that is an extremely unfortunate admission to have to make. After all, it is a policy which is likely to be unpopular enough in any case. It involves interference with the native States which produce opium, and with large sections of the Indian people who habitually use the opium leaf for the manufacture of tea. If in addition this policy is to involve a large surrender of revenue which will have to be made good by fresh taxation, and the throwing out of employment of a large number of cultivators. I think you will run the risk of creating a feeling in India which is by no means pleasant to contemplate. In the matter of the Excise duties on cotton the interposition of the home Government was profoundly unpopular, but at all events we could plead, and legitimately plead in that case, that if we were asking a sacrifice from the Indian people it was only a sacrifice proportionate to, and justified by, the sacrifice which we had imposed on ourselves to enable them to raise revenue for their own purposes. That is not a plea which we can by any possibility put forward in connection with the reduction of the opium cultivation, and, I confess, for my own part, that I hold very strongly that if it is persisted in on the present lines, and if the whole cost is to be thrown on the Indian people, we shall have acted in a manner wholly irreconcilable with those broad principles of justice upon which we have hitherto prided ourselves, and which have been our chief claim to the confidence of the Indian people.

*MR. G. A. HARDY (Suffolk, Stowmarket) rose to move "That this House, whilst affirming the imperative necessity of maintaining peace and order in India, is of opinion that an inquiry by means of a Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission should be instituted into the causes at the root of the dissatisfaction." He congratulated the Secretary of State for India upon the earnest and eloquent speech which he had delivered. He thought there had been few speeches delivered in the House which had made a greater impression, and which would have a more lasting effect. They knew the right hon. Gentleman's broad sympathy with those who were oppressed at home and in our great Empire of India. They knew also that the people of India were under a great debt of gratitude to the right hon. Gentleman for what he had done in the past. The fact that the Budget was being discussed to-day, in the very heart of the session instead of being deferred to the close, was one the Indian people were deeply grateful for. The right hon. Gentleman had shown his friendship to India by the reduction of the salt tax, and by conferring various other advantages. When they listened to the right hon. Gentleman they realised that the people of India would recognise that at last they had a Minister in the House of Commons in whom they might have confidence. In moving the Amendment standing in his name he fully recognised that it was the duty of the Government to maintain law and order in India at all costs. He would not criticise in any way the work of the Government and their efforts to carry out that work. But there was a feeling amongst a large part of our own fellow-countrymen that the recent trouble might have been avoided with a little care and thought, and had perhaps been brought about by methods which were alien to the spirit which Englishmen extended to other races with free institutions. Fears had been expressed to him as to the advisability of moving this Resolution, but it would be an evil day when an Englishman could not be a friend of India without being an enemy of his own country. They had lately received alarming reports of riots, boycotting, and meetings where fierce denunciations of the Viceroy and his policy were indulged in. The native Press has been unfortunately like some of our own newspapers, stirring up the people by appealing to their baser passions. There had been conflicts between Mahomedans and Hindus. They also knew that there was never smoke without fire, and the consequence was that he and his friends had brought this Motion forward that afternoon to ask His Majesty's Government to consent to an inquiry by either a Parliamentary Committee or a Royal Commission in India into the causes which had led to this serious unrest. The late Lord Randolph Churchill, supported by Mr. Gladstone, desired that the Government should, like the old East India Company, inquire into the methods of the Government of India every twenty years. The Secretary of State had stated that he would grant such an inquiry, and they were delighted to hear it. What were the causes which had led to this spirit of unrest ? There had been disturbances in Eastern Bengal and in the Punjab. Though those disturbances had occurred at the same time, the reasons for them were entirely different. The original cause which had culminated in the late unhappy episode, had been the failure of the educated classes of Hindus to obtain the slightest recognition by constitutional methods of their demands for reform. Twenty-two years ago they started their great Annual Congress. Educated Hindus from all parts of India assembled, at great expense and inconvenience, and in a perfect constitutional manner they stated the needs and wants of the Indian people. Sometimes the Congress was presided over by English gentlemen of the highest reputation, and Members of this House. In the Congress the hopes and aspirations of the educated people of India centred. England to them was the Mecca of freedom. They had studied English institutions and English history ; and they believed that if they adopted constitutional methods, the Viceroy would listen sympathetically and use them as a method of finding out the needs of the people. For twenty-two years they met, but their resolutions which were sent to the Viceroy were ignored, and their receipt was only officially acknowledged. Slighted and snubbed they steadily kept in view the true constitutional side, believing that in the end they would succeed. The moderate party, always telling the Congress that the time would come when their demands would be listened to, kept within constitutional limits and trusted that they would eventually attain their end. But hope deferred maketh the heart sick. When the present Government came into power, much was hoped and looked for. The expectations which had arisen from the bold statesmanlike manner in which the Government had dealt with the Transvaal were dashed to the ground, although they felt that the time was ripe, and that at last they would be able to obtain some of the reforms they had been asking for so long. Then occurred the difficulties which brought about the present trouble. It should be remembered that throughout the Congresses there had always been a small section of members who were extremists, and the danger was that those extremists might persuade the people of India no longer to follow constitutional methods, but to try agitation. He did not think that there was the slightest fear that when the people of India found that the reforms which he and his friends advocated were going to be granted they would feel they had come from the policy of agitation. We were bound in retaining our hold on India to keep our conscience clean. We were bound, if we were to justify our claim to rule, to give the people of India something more than a slow sort of justice. We were bound to give those people an opportunity of rising to a higher plane of civilisation and comfort than they at present enjoyed. We could not do that unless we listened to their requests. We could not put down by force those who only demanded justice or equality. After all, it had to be remembered that righteousness exalted a nation, and we should do right to the inhabitants of India so that, if at any time we had to fight, we should have a good cause. The danger was that from the Himalyas to the plains of India, if the people found that they could obtain no redress for their grievances by using constitutional methods they would follow the most advanced leaders. Another great cause of unrest was the partition of Bengal. It might be a question of sentiment; but sentiment was a great factor in the government of the world. What would the people of Scotland or of Ireland say if their country were to be split in half? The heather would be on fire with a vengeance. The Bengalees felt that in some way or another this partition was a dismemberment of the mother-land; and the result was that ever since it had taken place the unrest had steadily increased. The authorities might drive that unrest under; that could be easily done. But, all human experience taught that a great governing nation should allow constitutional steam to blow off rather than compress political gas. To show the intensity of the feeling of the people over the partition of Bengal, when the day arrived for its accomplishment hundreds of thousands went into mourning. No fires were kindled, no shoes or stockings were worn, and only a loin cloth was wrapped round the body. The constitutional party held over one thousand meetings to protest against the partition. The request was this, and it was made to day—

> "Even if you cannot give us back Bengal, give us some modification of the present position of affairs, so that we may not be a country cut in half."

It had been said that the agitators were a microscopic minority, but the House must remember that they appealed to a mighty host. They must recollect that these educated and advanced men who were using constitutional means to secure what they wanted, having been educated and knowing town life, went back to their native villages once a year. They were therefore acquainted with the condition of their people, and realised their needs. Indeed, there were no other people in India who had a greater opportunity of doing so. How much better it would have been if the policy which had been declared that night had been declared five years ago! It would have saved trouble and unrest. They had, he thought, to thank the Secretary for India for his timely and bold action. He would not speak further about Bengal, where the trouble had arisen from a certain governor publicly declaring in the form of an eastern allegory that he had two wives, and that as his Hindoo wife was sulky, he was determined to pay attention to his Mahomedan spouse. He also issued circulars instructing his subordinates in making appointments to give preference to Mahomedans, even if better Hindus were available. Taking their cue from their master, the Mahomedan officials openly showed partiality and spoke disrespectfully, and mischief had been done which it would take a generation to put right. Then there was the great fact of the poverty of the people. Lord Curzon had stated that the average native income was 40s. per annum and the taxation 3s. 6d. per head. The death rate was also terrible. In forty years there had been ten famines which had killed 15,000,000 of people, while plague had carried off 5,500,000. In 1884 the death rate was twenty-four per 1,000, in 1894 it was thirty, and in 1904 it was thirty-two. To-day 50,000 a week were dying from plague. The ignorant people thought there must be someone to blame, and they therefore accused the Government. For these reasons he earnestly hoped the Government would grant their request for an inquiry. He hoped the result of these discussions would be to show the people of India that they had the full sympathy of the people of this country.

*DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford) seconded the proposal. Although, he said, the noble Lord thought they would do some injustice to the cultivators, he was grateful to the Secretary of State for reducing poppy cultivation. The cultivators had a time limit, extending up to ten years, and surely during that time they could arrange their affairs, and take up the cultivation of other products. Then the noble Lord was afraid that the Indians themselves were opposed to this step as they had not been directly consulted, but Mr. Gokali, who was an Indian member of the Viceroy's Council, had said that his fellow countrymen were in favour of the abolition of the opium traffic. This was a great moral issue, because it was a trade which was degrading this country in the eyes of the world, and they rejoiced that the stigma was going to be removed from the nation. As to the plague, they felt a thrill of horror run through the House when the appalling figures were mentioned by the Secretary of State. He said there were 641,000 deaths for a third of a year, but he did not mention how that state of things affected particular provinces. For instance, in May there were 80,000 deaths a week, 50,000 of which were in the Punjab. In the Punjab as in other parts of India whole villages had been swept away. The angel of death, grim and greedy, lifted the latch of every house, and carried away all the residents. The villages were converted into silent sepulchres and catacombs, and the desolation was far beyond the imagination of anybody in that House. What that meant to the Indian people was at all events beyond his powers of description. Tears, mourning, and wailing everywhere. They had now to acknowledge that plague was a preventable disease. It had been exterminated in most countries of the world, and it was only in India that it had such a tremendous effect because the Indian Government had not taken adequate steps to meet it. Ten years ago, Professor Simpson, one of their medical officers of health, advised that they should have a sanitary army, and that it should be composed of Indians so that there should be no degradation of Indian homes by the entrance of foreigners, to see that the sanitary requirements were carried out. The Royal College of Physicians two years ago presented a memorandum to the Secretary of State urging these sanitary reforms. They had no sanitary army, and although it would cost a considerable amount of money the work should be undertaken. The *Lancet* recently emphasised the seriousness of the situation by saying—

> "It seems to us that every thoughtful citizen will agree that motives of political expediency call as loudly as those of humanity for action."

It added—

> "It is doubtful whether the Government of India has ever realised its grave responsibility in this matter of plague, and it cannot be congratulated upon having awakened to it even now. It is not oriental procrastination or slow formulation of schemes, but action that is required; not resolutions of which there have been many, but money and machinery."

He trusted the Government and the Secretary of State would move the Government of India in that direction. As to the partition of Bengal, he believed it was the unalterable opinion of the people of Bengal that it was a deliberate blow aimed at their national life and their political aspirations. He would regret if the Secretary of State did not see his way to remedy that grave injustice, and he thought it was not too late. The step had never received the sanction of the House or of Bengal, and it was essential for the peace and prosperity of British rule in India that the wrong should be remedied without delay. He was torn by his conflicting allegiance to the charming personality of the Secretary for India and Liberal principles. The Secretary for India always commanded his profound respect, but he felt that the greatness of this country depended upon its devotion to great principles and particularly to the principle of liberty. He had always looked upon the right hon. Gentleman as an apple of gold in a filigree of silver, but he was afraid that through the Secretary of India's coercive measures they were losing the brave, strong, valiant champion of freedom that the right hon. Gentleman had always been. The Ordinance of 1818 under which the right hon. Gentleman proceeded was the direct negative of all law, for it permitted arrest and deportation without trial. The action of the Secretary of State brought contempt upon British justice not only in India but throughout the world. Lala Rajpat Rai, who was deported, was a distinguished citizen, occupying in India a position as moral teacher tantamount to that filled in this country by the late Dr. Martineau. Agit Singh was only a little over twenty, whose youth should be taken into consideration. What he felt was that these men should be tried. There were Judges in India in whom both the Indians and the people of this country had confidence, and the question was why were not these men tried? The Secretary of State had said a prosecution would have advertised them. That was exactly what a prosecution should do, advertise the wrong a man had done and the punishment meted out to him in consequence. Would that not be better than banishment? The effect of the banishment of Louis Kossuth and Joseph Mazzini only strengthened the hands of the movement for Hungarian and Italian liberty. He and others had no desire to defend the authors of inflammatory speeches, but they felt that a serious mistake had been made in banishing these men without a civil trial; that such an action would tend, if they were not revolutionary before, to make them revolutionary now. The conflict in India was the counterpart of that in Russia, a struggle between the intellectuals on the one hand and the bureaucrats on the other, and we did not hesitate to use fierce language in denunciation of the Russian bureaucracy. After all, the intellectuals of India were fighting a good, honourable, and righteous cause if they would only keep to constitutional methods, and he hoped they would keep to constitutional methods, and that the outcome would be that they would win greater freedom and justice for their country. He regretted that the Secretary of State had found it necessary to repress the Press. That he believed to be a great danger to law and order in itself. If there was to be repression of the Press the right hon. Gentleman had better turn his attention to some of the newspapers in this country. Much of the Press of this country, particularly the Conservative Press, was playing the part of mischief makers in India. It was lacking in the spirit of truth, mercy, and justice, and made charges of ignorance and unfitness. Calling the people rebels and levelling such epithets at the Indian patriots as sedition-mongers and rebels, was not likely to soothe and calm them. Yet how futile it all was. How was the right hon. Gentleman going to prevent Liberal newspapers going to India? Was he going to try and prohibit that? Was he going to try and stamp out the national influence which these papers might have in encouraging the young people in a good, wise, and proper course? The cruellest act of all was the right hon. Gentleman's attitude to the students in the colleges and their teachers. It was a great humiliation to the present democratic House of Commons, which had been committed to this course of action without it being discussed. It was a dreadful thing to see the doyen of intellectualism in this country adopting the methods of Russia in this respect. The Secretary of State had better try to stop British history being taught in the schools in India. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman thought it would be wise to keep the Bible out of India. He knew no book more subversive of empire. The right hon. Gentleman had entered upon an unwise course, and he hoped he would retrace his steps and establish freedom in all its fulness, so that if a man did commit a crime or a political wrong he should be brought before a judge and have a fair trial. In this connection he would like to quote what the right hon. Gentleman himself said on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill of Ireland—

> "Coercion will have the inevitable effect—and I believe you know it in your hearts as well as we know it—by reason of the traditions and the strongest passions in Ireland, of throwing the whole sentiment of the country against your remedial legislation, and giving strength to what you are pleased to consider a lawless organisation. ["National Congress. National League."] Anybody can pass a Coercion Bill. But it is not anybody who can undo the mischief which Coercion Bills have often done, and which this Coercion Bill will do more than

any of the others. It is because we believe that it will do none of the good which you anticipate, and that it will do enormous and irreparable mischief at a critical moment in the relations between England and Ireland, that we protest against it."

He protested against the policy which had been adopted in India. He felt that it was out of accord with the justice, wisdom, and honour of the English people. As Carlyle said, injustice paid itself with frightful compound interest, and he feared that that might happen in the present case. They wanted to avoid a mutiny, but were they not rather sowing the seeds by their action? He protested against the way the House had been treated in the matter. They were trustees for the people of India, and yet at a critical time their sanction to serious steps was not invited. He supposed it was part of the pathology of Empire. The restriction of liberty in one part led to the restriction of liberty at home. It was the same as when the late Prime Minister was in power, discussion was burked, the Executive was exalted and the House was humiliated. He thought the Secretary of State should have consulted the House by moving the adjournment himself before adopting the repressive recommendations of the Government of India He was glad there was to be a Royal Commission, and he hoped no man tainted with officialism would be made chairman of it. The policy of reform was a step in the right direction. India had been waiting for a long time; it had been treated with a cruel reaction by the late Government, and it was time this Government showed it was capable of acting liberally. He was glad there was going to be some reform. It was neither wide nor extensive, but it was the opening of the door to better things. The Viceroy's Council was to be increased, and he hoped its functions would be extended. But the right hon. Gentleman had said nothing about what was equivalent to the Cabinet of India. He thought it was time Indians were trusted in the very highest Departments of the government of their own country. It was time there were one or two Indians on the Viceroy's Executive. He would like to see half the Council of the Secretary of State, which was only an advisory body, consisting of Indians. The Secretary of State would have the wider knowledge that these men brought of the great affairs of India. The right hon. Gentleman had not mentioned anything about the municipalities, in which he hoped there was to be some alteration. Under the benign influence of Lord Ripon Calcutta had seventy-five members on the municipal Council, of whom fifty were elected and twenty-five were nominated, Lord Curzon took, in his opinion, a false step when he reduced the elected members of the body to twenty-five. He hoped that the Secretary for India would establish the principle of public election in its entirety in all the municipal and provincial councils throughout India. They knew what the present Government had done in that direction. It had given to South Africa, to the late republic, self-government, and they believed self-government to be the secret of success in all countries. They welcomed the advance that had been made, and they trusted that the advance would be still greater before this Bill became an Act of Parliament, and that India would look with greater hope and greater joy and greater love towards this country, and the union be cemented, not in fear, but in love and good will.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House, whilst affirming the imperative necessity of maintaining peace and order in India, is of opinion that an inquiry by means of a Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission should be instituted into the causes at the root of the dissatisfaction.'"—(*Mr. George Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. A. E. W. MASON (Coventry) said the hon. Member who had moved the Amendment had given many reasons for the course which he proposed, namely, that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the dissatisfaction in India. He was glad that the hon. Member had given as one of the reasons of the unrest which undoubtedly existed, the fact that there was a political agitation. He was glad to know that, because he supposed that everybody in the House had received a circular making a sincere appeal to put the good of the Empire above Party. In his speech introducing the Budget the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for India had given a very solemn warning. In the circular to which he referred, there was no allusion from beginning to end to a political cause for the unrest. It was entirely attributed to the land revenue of India. But the explanatory Memorandum issued by the right hon. Gentleman, in one important and essential particular absolutely contradicted the statement in the circular. It would be seen that the land tax had increased by 30 per cent. in nineteen years, and that a tract of country, which fifteen or sixteen years ago was absolutely waterless and uncultivable, had been brought into a state of high cultivation, and supporting 800,000 people. The hon. Member for the Stowmarket Division had admitted that there were political causes for the unrest, and it seemed to him that the hon. Gentleman had given a very good reason for opposing the Amendment when he told them that a successful agitation would be regarded as an opportunity and a ground for further agitation. He did not think that the carrying of the Motion would be regarded in any other way in India than as a proof of the success of the agitation and of the fear of the British Government. The right hon. Gentleman had delivered a very solemn warning about the disasters which such a belief would inevitably entail. The mover and seconder of the Amendment had spoken of the objects which the political party in India had in view, and it seemed to be suggested that freedom and equality were really their aims. They had spoken as though the agitators were really looking after the future prosperity of India. He thought it was right to put before the House a somewhat different view. He could himself find no evidence whatever that those who were most prominent in the political agitation in India were concerned for the relief of poverty in India. So far as one could find out they were seeking to obtain the satisfaction of a very natural ambition, the ambition of self-government. A certain Mr. Benip Chondra Pal had been quoted in *The Times* only a few days ago. From what appeared in that journal rather a lurid light was thrown upon the object of this political agitation. Mr. Pal said that the agitators were to contemplate with absolute equanimity increased distress among the Indian peasantry for a generation, because Mr. Pal believed that perpetual good rule on the part of the British Government destroyed and crushed the desire for self-government, which it was chiefly his aim to extend. When they saw the aims which the agitators had in view he did not think the House could have any great sympathy with them, or believe that they would in any way promote prosperity and peace in India. Mr. Pal looked forward to a complete boycott of English capital and English goods, to the keeping of the English out of the country, to self-government without the ægis of English rule, and to a very heavy prohibitive protective tariff on all British goods coming into that country. He doubted if the majority of the House would regard such a prohibitive tariff as likely to be a boon to the Indian peasant. It was fair that they should realise what were the objects definitely put forward in India by a leader of the movement, and the aims they had in view. When he heard proposals for self-government thrown out in that casual way, he wondered how any man could forget that there were other people in India also with a natural ambition. They had spoken of the natural ambition of educated men for self-government. Everybody admitted at once that the movement for self-government was a natural ambition on the part of educated men. He asked the House to remember another class of people, not educated, up in the hills, who also had a natural ambition–the ambition of conquest. Between the hills and the plains, arresting the almost invariable practice or rule of history, stood the British power. If the gentlemen in India desiring self-government without the ægis of English power obtained their end, he thought that what the right hon. Gentleman had prophesied as a very dire result would come about in an exceeding short space of time. In every problem of Indian affairs the tribes beyond the frontier must become increasingly burdensome. They were accustomed by their traditions to come down to the plains. It was the sole place for the surplus population of Afghanistan. He believed that last year 31,000 crossed over from Afghanistan into the hill districts, from which the only outlet was to the plains; and we were the only power which stood between the hill tribes and the people of the plains. At the present time many of them came down to Bombay. When he was on the frontier he was told that of one particular tribe of 2,000 men, 700 or 800 were in Bombay serving in factories or finding their emoluments by the help of derided British capital. The right hon. Gentleman who had brought in the Budget had warned them that their proceedings in that House were overheard everywhere, and he would like to make a suggestion—he did not know whether it would be carried out, but he believed it would be of some use, because the papers at home and in India and everywhere unintentionally did a great deal of harm. In that House, for instance, out of sixty or seventy questions one would be asked in regard to India, and the answer would occupy about ten seconds of Parliamentary time; but that question and its answer would appear in the Indian newspapers as the only item of Parliamentary intelligence. It might be a question referring to the agitation, and the agitator would be flattered by the idea that he was occupying the whole attention of the House, whereas, in reality he had occupied only ten seconds out of proceedings lasting eight hours. He thought that in future some arrangment should be made by which, at all events, in our self-governing colonies, some sort of official *précis* would be issued through some press agency. It would enable matters to fall into proper proportion in the history of the day's Parliamentary proceedings, and be of great advantage to the Empire as a whole. Returning to the policy of the agitators in India, he thought that when the House compared their aims with the policy enunciated by the Secretary of State for India they would not be inclined to sympathise with the agitators at all. In the reduction of the salt tax and in measures of irrigation there was evidence of a definite and distinct desire to promote prosperity in India, and those efforts indicated very great sympathy, not only on the part of the right hon. Gentleman, but, he was sure, on the part of the Governors-General and of all those capable men whose prestige was bound up with the successful handling of the difficult machine of government in India. They would find in these men greater sympathy with the poor and distressed population of India than among the ambitious and educated men who were carrying on this agitation.

*MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.) said that at the present moment they were discussing the Indian Budget under a totally different set of circumstances from those which obtained upon the last occasion. Everyone knew that there was a state of unrest at present existing in certain parts of India. During the whole of last session, and the present session up to a certain point, hon. Members had been trying to impress upon the Government that there was growing unrest in India, and that if it was not tackled it would develop into a very serious concern. That state of things had come about, and what had been the action of the Government in regard to questions on the subject? The reply of the Government had always been an absolute denial that there was anything of the kind existing in India. Upon this point he would like to quote the reply of the Secretary for India to a supplementary question put to him by the hon. Member for Gravesend last session, who asked in regard to the alleged hooting at Europeans at Lahore—

> "Whether this incident was to be attributed to the general unrest in India."

To this question the Secretary of State for India replied—

> "No; he did not believe it had the slightest connection with what the hon. Gentleman was pleased to call the general unrest in India, as to which he was rather sceptical."

That answer must have been given because the officials in India had not been supplying correct information to the Secretary of State. Were they going to allow their affairs to be carried on by a group of officials who either would not or could not give them correct information? He thought it was quite time the matter was fully inquired into. He did not dispute the honesty of Indian officials, but from the very nature of their occupation they were isolated. Their duties were continually increasing and they were gradually getting out of sympathy with the people. Last session he asked the right hon. Gentleman a question in regard to a statement made by Sir Andrew Fraser in a speech before the Asiatic Society of Bengal, in which he stated that—

> "At the present moment Anglo-Indian officials know considerably less of the people than the officials of old."

Looking at the thing from the broadest point of view he should say that the statement made by Sir Andrew Fraser was correct. He wished to put this proposition to the House. Supposing he had handed his business over to be conducted by other people and it was not correctly carried on, the course he would adopt would be to write out their discharges immediately. He thought some inquiry ought to be made into this matter. Not long ago when travelling to Swansea in a railway train, there happened to be in the same carriage two officials, one of them from the Straits Settlement and the other an Indian official. They began to talk about how they got on with the native population, and one of them replied "Very well indeed, but of course you want to treat them as you would treat an animal you love; you want to be severe to them in order to be kind." One of them condemned in the strongest possible terms the natives acquiring an English education, because he said that if the natives were educated the position of the officials of India would become intolerable. That struck him as verifying what Sir Andrew Fraser had stated before the Asiatic Society. The Amendment asked for an inquiry into the causes of unrest in India. What were those causes? He should say that first of all there was poverty; then there was famine, plague, ignorance of the masses, excessive taxation, and certainly the discouragement of executive ability. What were the facts in connection with poverty? He had previously stated that the total income per head of the Indian people, including the salaries of the Viceroy and the whole of the officials in India, the Native Princes, and the great traders and merchants, amounted to £2 per head per annum. Mr. Wm. Digby had put the amount down at £1 per annum. If those figures were correct it was a lamentable state of things, and if they were incorrect there was all the more need for inquiry. After all, the question of famine and plague was in the main a question of poverty. If the poverty of the common people of India was not so abject they would be better able to resist plague, and consequently plague was largely the outcome of poverty. Upon the question of famine and plague he would like to quote the figures issued by the hon. Member for Walworth. There had been two famines in the Punjab in the last ten years. During the last five years the Punjab had been swept by plague. This year no less than 52,000 persons died in a single week in that province. That would prove his proposition that after all plague was but a poverty disease. Again it has been stated that—

> "During the first four months of this year the plague victims throughout India numbered 495,000, an increase on the previous worst record (1904) when the total reached 1,022,000."

But the case was more gloomy still, because the right hon. Gentleman had said that the deaths during the first four months of this year amounted to 626,000. He could not contemplate those figures with equanimity, and on those grounds alone, quite apart from what he had already indicated, there was an absolute need for inquiry. With regard to the ignorance of the masses of the people, he thought hon. Members would agree with him that no country could develop along right lines if the people were steeped in ignorance. It was a fact that an average of only 2¼d. per head was spent on education in India. Last year there were 18,000,000 boys in India of school age and only 3,500,000 were attending school. The Government ought to consider the advisability of adopting compulsory primary education, and he thought something might also be done not only for primary but for technical education as well. With regard to excessive taxation, he would like to quote the reply of the Under-Secretary for India to a question by the hon. Member for Walworth, in which he admitted that the land tax in India was 50, 60 and in some cases 65 per cent. of the net profit to be assigned as the Governments share to land revenue. They grumbled in this country at having to pay 1/- in the £ income tax, but if the figures he had quoted were correct the Indian agriculturist had to pay over 10s. in the pound of their income in taxes. That position of things had now become almost intolerable. With regard to the discouragement of executive ability, he thought it would be agreed that the natives of India were equal in intelligence and ability to those belonging to any other race, and yet on every possible executive concern of their country the native was debarred from occupying any official position. They had asked again and again that one or two natives should be admitted to the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Some hon. Gentlemen appeared to think that that claim should not be put forward in view of the fact that India was an Empire in which there were many races, speaking different languages, and holding different religions, and also caste distinctions, it being believed that the natives themselves would object, and that they would prefer Europeans on the Council rather than men who possibly spoke a different language from themselves. What was lost sight of was the fact that there was a growing national life in India gradually breaking down the barriers of caste and creed, and Indians would not be satisfied until they had representation in the Executive Council. Another matter that he desired to bring before the attention of the House was the unfortunate riots at Commilla. These he attributed to causes having their origin in the colossal blunder of the Viceroy in partitioning Bengal. The Mahomedans thought that something had been conceded to them, and they construed it as a licence to do as they liked. He had asked Questions on the matter, and he regretted to say that they had not been satisfactorily answered. The Nawab of Dacca went down into the locality, and held pro-partition demonstrations for the purpose apparently of showing his loyalty but, like the player Queen in Hamlet, he protested his loyalty too much; it was said that somebody threw a brick at him. That charge afterwards dwindled down until it was said that only a stone was thrown. He spoke subject to correction by the right hon. Gentleman, but it was reported that the Mahomedans, after the change in the administration, maltreated the Hindu traders, strewed their goods about their shops in the bazaar, and committed acts of common robbery. However that might be, the fact remained that as the result of the partition of Bengal great religious disturbances took place. The gentleman he had named went back to the Viceroy's Council and talked of the reign of King Demos being ended, and had the temerity to use these words—

> "We only appeal to the Government to put down with a firm hand every attempt to sow the seeds of disaffection, and to seduce the people from their faith and belief in your Excellency's Government."

Personally he thought that gentleman was the greatest agitator in the whole of the unfortunate disturbance. On the question of the riots alone there was need for inquiry. He came to the most important part of what he had to say, namely, the arrest and the deportation of Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh. The right hon. Gentleman had gone out of his way to apologise for the circumstances under which the arrest was made.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh no, he did not apologise.

*MR. O'GRADY said that was a matter of opinion. He thought the right hon. Gentleman did. What were the facts in connection with that matter? In his judgment the arrest was a mistake. Rajpat Rai was perfectly honest in his views, and was in no sense a revolutionary. He was an ordinary land reformer, such as we had in this country. What was the part of the agitation in which he was supposed to be concerned? First of all there were letters and articles which appeared in the *Civil and Military Gazette*. The prosecution of the Punjabee, the Colonisation Bill, the Land Alienation Act Amendment Bill, the increase of canal rates on the Bari-Doab Canal, and the appalling mortality from plague—these were the points of a perfectly constitutional agitation and ought to be taken notice of by the Government. He wished to point out that there was absolutely no connection between Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh. He admitted that Rajpat Rai might have been indiscreet, but let any hon. Member attempt to throw the first stone on a matter of indiscretion. After all there had only been two meetings at which Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh had appeared on the same platform. If those facts were correct, they entirely disposed of the statements made as the reason for the arrest and deportation of Rajpat Rai. There was not a single line in the Regulations of 1818 that would justify the arrest and deportation of Rajpat Rai for the agitation in which he was engaged. When he was arrested he should have been specifically charged and given a fair trial. He felt sure himself—and the feeling could not be removed until he heard something more definite than the right hon. Gentleman had given in the way of evidence—that a trial would have proved up to the hilt wh he had attempted to convey to the

House, that Rajpat Rai did not preach sedition, and that he was engaged in ordinary constitutional agitation for the removal of undoubted grievances and for land reform. The right hon. Gentleman in his arrest of Rajpat Rai had in principle justified every tyranny committed by Dublin Castle or the Russian Autocracy. He could not understand an act of that kind on the part of the right hon. Gentleman in view of his past record. He was astonished that the noble Lord on the Front Opposition Bench should have got up and said that the right hon. Gentleman had done the right thing. He was profoundly dissatisfied with the proposals of the Secretary of State. The right hon. Gentleman had said that there were extreme difficulties in the way of their doing what they would like to do. It was for statesmanship to overcome difficulties. There did not exist a difficulty in the whole world which could not be overcome by the application of human ingenuity, wisdom, and brain power. He knew that the difficulties were great, but he and his friends did not ask that complete self-government should be conceded to India, but that some measures should be conceded which would lead up to the larger policy of self-government. There was only one alternative to revolt, and that was self-government. The whole feeling of the world to-day was in the direction he had indicated. Persia was granting self-government, and Russia had been compelled to grant some form of self-government; therefore they could not expect the large number of the intelligent and intellectual people of India to be content with the present state of things. Their desires and aspirations were legitimate, and he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to grant the inquiry now asked for.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said it was rarely that he differed from his hon. friends the Members for Brentford and Leeds, and he greatly regretted that in one very important matter under discussion he could not agree with them. He had had personal experience in every province of India with the exception of Madras, and speaking from that experience he felt compelled to differ from what had been said by his hon. friends as to the application to the Punjab of the Regulation of 1818. He himself had had to enforce that Regulation and another Regulation of a local character on the same lines, and he had seen its effects as well as its defects. The crisis in the Punjab he had never regarded as anything but a passing crisis, but he was of opinion that the most merciful and most effectual way of terminating that crisis was to use the means afforded by the Regulation of 1818—and let it be remembered, it was the law of the land "broad based upon the people's will." The two agitators who had been deported had gone about the country tampering with the loyalty of the people and (in the case of Ajit Singh at least) with the loyalty of the troops, and, in the opinion of all those who knew India, as well as of the people of India themselves, that was an intolerable public wrong. It was an unwritten but customary law in the village communities of India that the executive authority represented by the headman and elders should have power to expel or prevent the entry of any undesirable character. Such a law had existed for 2,000 years in India, and the Regulation of 1818 was based on the transmission of that power from the village headman to the executive of the State. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that it was wholly inexpedient to have State sensational trials, the incidents connected with which would be scattered broadcast throughout India to inflame further the passions that had been roused by the seditious meetings. He maintained, therefore, that power should always be held in reserve to prevent such a recurrence of events as had lately shocked all classes in this country, and he begged his hon. friends not to forget that the reservation of this power was in the interests of the people and of the public peace, and designed to prevent lawlessness and outrage; it had been sparingly used, and only on occasions when in the public interest it was clearly demanded. In his experience of a similar Regulation in Burma he had invariably found that the communities affected had themselves urged or assented to executive deportation of the disturbers of the peace, with the result that peace was immediately restored. No colleague of his could ever say that he had not stood up for the rights of the people of India, even often to his own hurt. There was a population in India of nearly 300,000,000, with a paltry British population of 170,000 or so, and the Executive were bound to have a reserve, in the last resort, in the shape of a Regulation like that of 1818 to prevent what might develop into a very serious crisis. The noble Lord the Member for South Kensington had objected to the method of the Secretary of State for India in enlarging the various Legislative Councils, including the Supreme Council; and his Lordship appeared to advise that the various religious and semi-religious and social sects should be separately represented; that in fact the members should be selected from different religious denominations. That was exactly what they in India wanted to prevent. What they wanted was to harmonize the different religions and to exclude religious differences from the political arena in India as well as in this country; and he was disappointed to hear such reactionary opinions coming from the noble Lord. The noble Lord further deprecated free education, and seemed to say that it should be paid for, if given at all! By whom? By families who lived on 1½d. a day! The only inference he could draw from such an utterance was that the noble Lord representing the opposite Party did not wish the poor of India to be educated at all! The noble Lord had referred to the question of opium culture, and appeared to blame the Government for reducing the area of cultivation of the drug, and said that he did not see how substitutes could be found for the opium crop. The noble Lord was entirely mistaken, and evidently did not know the circumstances of the country. He (Mr. Smeaton) knew the ryots thoroughly, and he could say that they would be only too delighted to get rid of the cultivation of the poppy, but the reason why they continued to cultivate it was that they got advances from the Government upon the crop, and they would do anything to get an advance to enable them to pay their debts. The Motion on the Paper asserted the existence of dissatisfaction in India. He was aware that there was dissatisfaction, but he differed from the opinion of many of his hon. friends as to its causes. The causes of the present dissatisfaction and unrest lay deeper than had been described by previous speakers. He was sorry to say, but he said it with a full sense of responsibility, that the unrest was largely due to what he was bound to call the maladministration of the late Government of India, the late Viceroy. The late Viceroy, Lord Curzon, unfortunately did not know, and never learnt, what kind of people he had to govern. He (Mr. Smeaton) admitted and appreciated the high ideals which, at the outset at least, Lord Curzon had set before himself. But he completely failed throughout, and particularly during the last half of his administration, to understand, and indeed on certain occasions resolutely refused to understand, the particular temperament of the people with whom he had to deal. There had been a long series of most regrettable incidents during the last two or three years of the late Viceroy's term of office, due largely to his own blundering; but they had had the effect of raising the temper of the people in India to a fever heat, of causing uneasiness and distrust everywhere; so that bitter dissatisfaction had been the heritage bequeathed by Lord Curzon to Lord Minto, the present Viceroy. That was the reason of the intense feeling of irritation which caused the people of India to view everything done by the Government as wrong. The first incident to which he attached importance was the meretricious show in 1903—that Field of the Cloth of Gold—that Delhi Durbar. That incident shocked the people of India, because at the time 25,000 to 30,000 people were dying every week of plague, and millions of them were only recovering from famine. The National Congress pronounced a severe condemnation of that extraordinary pageant, and its condemnation found an echo in every village. Several of the Native Princes resented the way in which they were summoned, and the Ameer of Afghanistan (as the right hon. Gentleman had stated) point blank refused. The Official Secrets Bill and the officialisation of the universities were untimely measures and were quite unnecessary, and irritated the educated classes. The latter was regarded as an attempt to render education more expensive, and to prevent the poorer classes of the people from obtaining it. Then there came the destruction of the representative elective system on the Calcutta Municipality, followed by the invasion of Tibet. The latter event had had a much more far-reaching effect than had ever been understood in this country. There was not a native State in India which did not feel that its position and safety were jeopardised by that invasion. It was an open secret that in consequence of it the Ameer of Afghanistan would not visit India during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty. Then there were the extraordinary scenes in the Legislative Council. There were recriminatory debates and attempts to stifle independent statements of opinion. Then followed the refusal of the Viceroy, perhaps on *bonâ fide* grounds, but it was difficult to say what they were, to receive a deputation of the National Congress. Lord Curzon declined to receive that deputation or to have anything to do with the very temperate and moderate representations of the Congress—a body which, whatever its other characteristics, could fairly claim to represent millions of the educated and law-abiding and loyal people of India. On what possible ground dared he refuse to listen to a deputation from such a body? Then there was the partition of Bengal, and—what was perhaps the worst sin of all—the speech delivered at the convocation of the University of Calcutta, in which the Viceroy compared most unfavourably the people of the East with the people of the West, and declared that the people of the East were unfit for government, and that the only people who were entitled to govern were the white people from the West. That speech was accompanied by vituperative epithets which deeply offended the people of Bengal, and were rebuked even by the English Press in India. All this culminated in the partition of Bengal. He differed from his hon. friends the Members for Nottingham and Walworth in the opinions they had expressed about the partition of Bengal. No doubt it was unfortunate and untimely, but he thought there were grounds for at least a redistribution of territory, and if it had not been for the extraordinary secrecy, if not trickery, with which the measure was consummated he was inclined to think that the partition, or rather the redistribution of the Province of Bengal might have been accomplished without raising the fierce resistance which it had now encountered. If there had been honest candour, a free interchange of opinion and a frank disavowal of all sinister intentions—had there been all these, and had not the partition been carried out away up in Simla out of reach of the people concerned—had these steps been taken, he believed the partition would now have been effectually accomplished and the province would have settled down contentedly. But those steps were not taken, and the result was to excite combative and fierce resistance which would go on for some time. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State had told them of the reforms which he meant to introduce, and parenthetically he might say that if only the Viceroy had had on his Executive Council at Simla an Indian gentleman when he decided on the drastic measure of deportation his hands would have been greatly strengthened throughout the country. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had been very well advised in those moderate measures of reform which he had adumbrated. The presence of one or two Indian gentlemen of experience on the Council of India in London would be a really valuable acquisition, and would act as a useful tonic to the Administration. As to the Advisory Council, he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would go still further than he had done and would give to that Council a certain amount of independent authority, subject of course to a veto of the chief executive, and not confine them merely to the function of advising. If that were done he was convinced that there would be a much greater future in store for India than it had experienced in the past.

*MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said the House had listened with great interest to the remarks of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, because the hon. Member spoke with first-hand knowledge, which was always more valuable than that which could be gleaned from papers. They had been treated earlier in the evening to one of those fascinating speeches for which the Secretary of State for India was noted and of which they now had too few. He was not certain if his right hon. friend would not be well advised if he lifted the curtain from what was in his mind rather oftener, and let the House and the public more into his confidence. He had listened with admiration, and on the whole with satisfaction, to what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman. He sometimes wondered whether any of them realised the enormous magnitude, variety, and complexity of the problems connected with the government of India. Three out of four of the King's subjects lived in India, and the two greatest cities in the British Empire after London were in India. The Secretary for State was not like other heads of Departments in this country. He was not merely the head of a Department of State, but he was the head of a State with a population of 300,000,000. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Home Secretary, and so forth. They were dealing that day with the Budget, which showed revenue £50,371,000, and expenditure £49,045.000, or a realised surplus of £1,326,000 on last year's figures. That was satisfactory. Turning to one or two items of revenue, he had listened with surprise to what the noble Lord the Member for South Kensington had said upon the opium question. A more belated speech he had never heard, and the noble Lord did not seem to have read up the latest information on the subject. He did not seem aware that the Viceroy had said in Council that this country could not follow behind the rest of the civilised world in this matter. His right hon. friend had responded to the request of the Chinese Government sympathetically, and they looked to him with confidence to see that the extinction of this traffic from India was carried out. He had listened also with some surprise to what the noble Lord said about the salt tax, because everybody who had looked into the matter even cursorily would know how the salt tax had eaten into the vitals of the poor of India. Leaving that aside, he turned to another aspect. He regretted very much to see £20,000,000 was down for military expenditure. It was of course a matter of policy, and nobody knew better than himself how strenuously and patiently the Secretary of State had set himself to curb and minimise the military expenditure. How fruitfully he had done so time would show. He regarded the £140,000 per annum for the expenses of the India Office here as a very large sum indeed, and his right hon. friend, he thought, might very well appoint a committee thoroughly to overhaul and sift that great establishment. He also thought a saving might be made in the cost of the stores department, which now amounted to more than £20,000 per annum. There was no question whatever but that there must be econony, but true economy did not consist so much in cutting down the expenditure as in seeing that value was received for that expenditure. Turning to the remunerative expenditure he came to the railways of India. There were now 30,000 miles of railway, and they were building at the rate of 1,000 miles per annum. The importance of the railway system in India could not be over-estimated, and he read with some regret the reply of his right hon. friend to the deputation which waited upon him recently to ask whether he could see his way to spend on construction and equipment of Indian railways at a more rapid rate. Of course, he was aware of the difficulties in the money markets, and that Indian finance soared into regions which only those at the India Office could adequately appreciate. As soon as opportunity afforded, he thought they might well spend £5,000,000 or £10,000,000 sterling on the further construction of railways in India. He could not use too strong words in condemnation of the complicated machinery of boards and committees now having the management of the railways in India, and he was glad that the Secretary of State had decided to have the subject investigated. Turning to irrigation, a capital sum of £28,000,000 had been spent on it, and the expenditure of that sum had resulted in the irrigation of 20,000,000 acres of Indian territory, which was not much less than the area of the whole of England. In agriculture also we were assisting the Indian peasant. He believed in these three ways—railways, irrigation, and agriculture—we were undoubtedly raising the standard of comfort in India. After all, the root of the whole matter was sound finance. He was glad that at the Colonial Conference India's adherence to free trade had been presented and re-affirmed in such a masterly manner by Sir James Mackay on her behalf. Wise outlay, with true economy, was a vital element of good government in India as well as in this country. He did not forget that there were other things to be considered besides £ s. d. and rigid economy. Our influence in the East must be judged not only by the economical position of the people, but by their moral growth and general contentment. One who did not carry them out in practice wrote these strong words: "Moral failure alone can shatter the prospect that awaits this country in the impending task of regenerating the East." The prevalence throughout India of peace and law and order was a very great and vital benefit; but when they came to education they were on rather more debateable ground. He thought that in India we had made the mistake that we had made in this country—the education was too literary; it did not build up character. That applied to elementary education, for the young were not taught a trade; but it applied still more strongly to University education. He was afraid the scores of Indians who came to this country got little good from it. They got a smattering of Western notions; but many of them left our shores worse than they came here, and he looked with alarm upon this veneer of Western civilisation. With regard to the unrest in India, there as anywhere else, force was no remedy, and it was the bounden duty of those in authority to look into the causes of the unrest, and to see if they could apply a remedy to the root of the matter, rather than put a plaster on the outside of the wound. After all, the main difficulty in this constitutional matter was surely the great gulf there was between the East and the West. Westerns did not get to the bottom of the mind of the Oriental. He had been much struck, in this connection, with some words quoted in Lord Cromer's last report on Egypt—

> "Those who have been in the East, and have tried to mingle with the native population, know well how utterly impossible it is for the European to look at the world with the same eyes as the Oriental. For a while, indeed, the European may fancy that he and the Oriental understand one another; but sooner or later a time comes when he is suddenly awakened from his dream, and finds himself in the presence of a mind which is as strange to him as would be the mind of an inhabitant of Saturn."

But that was no reason why we should not attempt the problem, and try to satisfy their legitimate and reasonable aspirations. That problem was how we, a democracy, were going to reconcile a more or less autocratic rule with the English notions of freedom and justice and liberty. He held very strongly that all really good government must contain some element of self-government. It might be a small element, but there must be the germ and the seed of it if they were to remain true to their principles. He welcomed the reforms adumbrated by his right hon. friend, who, speaking with all the responsibility of his high office, had probably gone as far as they could expect him to go at the present moment. From the experience he had during twelve months at the India Office, and his long personal acquaintance with the right hon. Gentleman, he could trust the Government in this matter. The important matter was not the pace, but that the head of the ship should be in the right direction. They must suppress sedition and disorder with a firm hand; they must deal out to these different peoples and races in India even-handed justice. And they must set their faces steadily towards the promotion of all that contributed to the economic, material, and moral welfare of the country. They must religiously abstain from trying to impose upon the Indian people western ideals and standards with regard to religion, manners, and customs. The watchwords, "patience, justice, sympathy" ought to be their guides in this matter. When the Prince of Wales addressed the country at the Mansion House he spoke of sympathy as the keynote of policy. Of the three watchwords—patience, justice, and sympathy—he believed sympathy was the greatest. He thought Lord Minto had that fully in his mind, and he firmly believed that the cloud of the moment would pass away. The unrest in India was largely due, in his opinion, to the steps taken by the Government of India long before the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose took office. He welcomed the assurance of his right hon. friend that the Government would not swerve from the path of reform. He had seen his right hon. friend day by day in the India Office, not sparing himself, effacing himself as far as the public were concerned, doing his level best and with great success, to turn the head of the ship in the right direction. He congratulated his right hon. friend on what he had already achieved, and assured him, on behalf of those whom he represented in the House, that he had their grateful thanks, and would receive from him as their Member the fullest measure of confidence and support.

*SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.) said that he spoke with a sense of considerable responsibility for he had held office in India, and it was difficult for anyone who had been so long associated with that country as he had been not to feel that an occasion of this kind was a critical one in its history. He regretted that the Secretary of State was not then present and had not heard recent speeches which had been made, because he thought that it would be beneficial and useful to him and to the Government if he was in closer touch with the Members of the House who interested themselves in India, and who, if he might venture to say so, were sometimes in a position to give him valuable advice. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman to a large extent was a very disappointing one. As to the Royal Commission to be appointed to inquire into decentralisation, he confessed that he did not understand that portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech. He, for one, certainly did not know why it had been found necessary to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into decentralisation in India. The point was not gone into by the right hon. Gentleman in his remarks, and if the Under-Secretary was going to give any reply that night he hoped that he would give a little further explanation on this point. If it was intended to give further powers to local governments in India, then he heartily deprecated the appointment of the Commission. Local governments in India were all petty despotisms. He ought to know something of this. He had been a local governor in India himself. They were not officers responsible to the people, but to the Government of India. The control of the Government of India was an absolutely necessary provision, and they ought not to deprive the people of India of the right of appeal to the Government of India, which they always regarded as a great privilege and safeguard. If he had correctly interpreted the objects of this Commission, he could only say that he deprecated it thoroughly. The right hon. Gentleman implied that it was a Commission to do something to alleviate the unrest in India. He failed completely to see any connection between the unrest in India and this desire to give larger powers to the heads of local administration. The causes of unrest in India were obvious. Those who ran might read. We had extended education among the people of India; new ideas and new aspirations had arisen among them, and there was a demand on all sides for a larger share in adminstration and government. Radical changes, they might be called revolutionary changes, were demanded by the educated classes in India. They had gone so far as to demand the introduction of representative institutions on the Western form of government; and that reminded him of a famous speech made in the House of Commons seventy-four years ago by one of the most brilliant Englishmen of the last century—Lord Macaulay. At that time the House took more interest in India than it did now. Before a crowded and sympathetic audience Lord Macaulay uttered the following memorable and prophetic words—

> "It may be that the public mind of India may expand under our system till it has outgrown our system; that by good government we may educate our subjects into a capacity for better government; that, having become instructed in European knowledge, they may in some future age demand European institutions. Whether such a day will ever come, I know not. But never will I attempt to avert or retard it. Whenever it comes it will be the proudest day in England's history."

That day which Macaulay said would be the proudest day in the history of England had dawned. How had the Government of India, how had successive Secretaries of State welcomed it, and what encouragement had they granted to those concessions which the people of India demanded? What consideration had they shown for those annual gatherings which were held in India where the wishes and aspirations of the people of India were fully ventilated, and by means of which the fullest opportunity was afforded to the Government of becoming acquainted with the feelings and desires of the people? He referred to the annual meetings of the Indian National Congress, which had been ignored and treated with contempt. He knew something of the National Congress, for he had been offered the presidency of one of its meetings. He recalled the recommendation of his noble friend Lord Courtney, who advised that on going to India they should address the Viceroy, and communicate to him the resolutions they might pass, which would no doubt receive the most favourable consideration at His Excellency's hands. A resolution to that effect was accordingly recorded at Bombay, and he was instructed by the Congress to wait on the Viceroy and present him with an address. He was told that he could not give this in, and that the resolutions were to be forwarded in the ordinary way by post. He forwarded them by post, and he received an answer from the Secretary to the Government of India as follows—

> "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the resolutions of the National Congress forwarded with your letter dated"

so-and-so. That was the only recognition accorded to the educated opinion of India. Strange as it might seem to hon. Gentlemen opposite, that policy did not give satisfaction to the people of India. The only effect it could possibly produce on the minds of the people was to make them discontented, uneasy, and unrestful. He had quoted one instance; let him quote another. There was the question of the partition of Bengal. More than a thousand public meetings, attended by hundreds of thousands of persons, had made a protest against that partition. Had they received the smallest consideration, the smallest attention from the Government of India or the Government in this country? How many memorials had been presented to the Secretary of State, how many telegrams had he received from India? What action had the right hon. Gentleman taken? The people of India were flesh and blood like ourselves, and when they found themselves treated in this way their feelings were very much the same as ours would be if we were placed in a similar position. The educated classes openly and avowedly were drifting to the opinion that constitutional agitation was becoming useless, and asked why they should waste their time in annual congresses and memorials. Constitutional agitation having failed it was now being said, "Let us see if other measures will not attract a little more attention to our grievances." He could not but deprecate the present state of things. He had always urged the people to agitate on strictly constitutional lines, and personally he deeply lamented that there should be found an increasing number of educated Indians who regarded constitutional agitation as useless. That it was so there could be no doubt whatever. And it was these men who were the leaders of the present movement. The Secretary of State had missed a unique opportunity. If when the right hon. Gentleman came into power he had only taken the trouble to look himself into the origin and source of the trouble in Bengal and had thoroughly examined it, he would have found that it was entirely due to the unfortunate partition of the province, and if he had only reversed that partition or modified it, he would have avoided all the troubles and the present regrettable situation in Bengal. Unfortunately, constitutional agitation produced no effect on him whatever. He regretted to see the state of things which had arisen in Eastern Bengal. Nothing like it had ever occurred during the thirty-five years he was there. He knew the people of Eastern Bengal. They were the most law-abiding and docile in the whole world. A child might lead them, and yet in that province there had been the most terrible disorder, riot, and bloodshed; robberies had taken place, and most belated measures had been taken in order to restore the semblance of peace and order in the province. That state of things was not creditable to the Government. It was sad to contemplate the state of Bengal now. The feelings between the people and the officials who ruled over them were quite different from what existed during the time he served the country there. The relations between the officials and the people of Bengal had become strained, and it was a common thing to hear the officials speak in language of the greatest bitterness in regard to the people over whom they ruled. That was a new feature, pregnant with misfortune in respect of British rule in India. He admitted that in the Punjab there had been some political excess, and he had no doubt that at the twenty-nine political meetings which had been held violent language might have been used. But he was convinced that the Government of India were unable to produce evidence implicating Lala Rajpat Rai with any of these seditious speeches. The Secretary of State had in his possession only general statements that Lala Rajpat Rai was revolutionary, that he was the leader of the political organisation, and the like. Lala Rajpat Rai was a religious reformer. He held a position in the Punjab somewhat similar to that of Dr. Clifford in this country. He was the leader of the most influential religious sect in the Punjab. Two years ago he came to this country and was interested in the political life he saw about him; and on his return to India he identified himself with political as well as with religious propaganda. But he was a man with a sense of responsibility, and with a character and position at stake. He was a successful lawyer, a man of business, with property, and he had never identified himself with violent schemes or with any seditious movement. There were seditious people in India. From information he had received he had no doubt that Ajit Singh, who had been recently arrested, was guilty of grave sedition. He had delivered speeches at most of these twenty-nine meetings. There was nothing secret about the movement in India. Everything was public and above board. Ajit Singh had spoken at many of the meetings in a most seditious manner; he was not stopped. No notice was taken until the meeting in connection with the assessment of the Rawul Pindi district. After that there was rioting and he was arrested. He had no doubt fallen within the meshes of the law. He wished the Government had proceeded against him legally instead of by an exceptional measure. But Lala Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh were wide as the poles apart. They were not properly described as captain and lieutenant. Ajit Singh was only twenty-three years of age; and it was unworthy of a great Government to invoke so drastic a Regulation against a mere boy. He had had practical experience of this Regulation and could tell the House how it worked. Twenty years ago, when he held the office of Commissioner of Police at Calcutta, he received a warrant from the Government of Lord Dufferin for the arrest of a Sikh gentleman who was expected to arrive from England, and the warrant was sent by him to an inspector of police for execution. The Sikh, on his arrival, was met by this police officer, who, under the guise of taking him for a drive, brought him to the police station, whence he was deported to a fortress. Not a line about what had taken place got into a single paper in India. Not a whisper was heard in the bazaars. The man was simply spirited away. Whether this Sikh gentleman was in the fortress now, or had died, or was released, he did not know. The incident showed how the Regulation of 1818 worked, a law of which any British Government should be ashamed. It recalled the times of Richelieu and Mazarin and the pages of Dumas. The House of Commons was abnegating its functions with regard to India. The Treasury Bench and the Front Opposition Bench had practically been empty during the debate. Such a state of things was a disgrace both to the present Government and the last. The House of Commons was the final arbiter in regard to Indian affairs. On the Ministerial Bench the Postmaster-General was present, but other Members of the Government had by their absence shown how little interest they took in India. The same was true of the Opposition Benches. He remembered that a right hon. Gentleman who sat on the Front Bench of the Opposition admitted colossal ignorance of India. That was probably true of both Front Benches then and now. He wanted to see a Committee of the House appointed as had been done in the past when Parliament really was interested in India. The reports of such a Committee appointed some years ago were invaluable. He remembered how the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy had once declared in the House that they were all Members for India. How far that was true or untrue they knew for themselves. He urged the Government to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the very grave and serious condition that had been described that day by the Secretary of State. Such a Committee was needed to reaffirm the responsibility of members for the good government of India. A Royal Commission would not produce half the good which might be produced by a Select Committee.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.) said he could assure the House that it was with feelings of very real diffidence that he ventured to reply on the debate raised by hon. Members. He was speaking at the box at which the right hon. Member the Secretary of State for India, who in language which he could not pretend to emulate, and with an eloquence which he could not hope to rival, had adddressed the House in a speech which was of great importance and which dealt with questions affecting India from a very high standpoint.

Whatever might be the opinions held by hon. Members, he was sure that there would be no disagreement as to the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman had put his views before the House. He himself suffered another disadvantage. He did not pretend to that local and lengthened experience of the administration of the Government which was possessed by many Members on both sides of the House. But he had such advantage as might be obtained by a close and sympathetic study of all the information in the India Office, a storehouse of treasure to every student of Indian affairs. The terms of the Resolution which had been moved by the hon. Member for Stowmarket asked for an inquiry by a Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission. There had been a certain number of examples of such inquiries in past years. He need not go back to the days of John Company. Since 1871 there had been several inquiries, not into the whole system of government in India, but into various portions of that administration. In 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874 Select Committees of that House inquired into the finance and financial administration of India. In 1879 there was a Select Committee on the East Indian Railway Bill, in 1892 there was a departmental inquiry into the Indian currency, in 1893 there was another departmental inquiry, in 1894 there was a Royal Commission on Opium, in 1895 there was a Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, and in 1898 there was again a departmental inquiry into the Indian currency. Since the time when Parliamentary inquiries were held into the whole administration of India an enormous amount of annual information had been given to the House such as was not afforded to the House during the time when it was found necessary to hold those inquiries. The report on the Moral and Material Progress of India, the Statistical Abstract and Trade Tables, the Financial Statement of the Government of India, and the Administration report on railways would be read with interest. On nearly every point of administration in India which could affect the people of this country in the guardianship of India information was constantly afforded through the House of Commons. Reasons had been urged why this inquiry should be granted. The hon. Members who moved and seconded the Motion laid stress on the fact that there had been agitation in Bengal largely caused by the partition; that for a long time that agitation had been conducted on constitutional lines, and that only when constitutional methods failed was recourse had to unconstitutional methods. There was no man in the House who had right or reason to complain of constitutional agitation, but was the fact that the agitation had attained to unconstitutional methods a reason for granting this inquiry? He thought it might well be a reason for refusing a demand which they might otherwise be glad to deal with. Excuses had been made for the conduct of Mr. Rajpat Rai, but he thought that his speeches showed that if he had been indiscreet he had been deliberately indiscreet, if he had been headstrong he had been deliberately headstrong, and that a gentleman of his ability must have known what he was doing and was not carried away by excitement. It was said he was sincere. Nobody denied his sincerity, but it might take a form dangerous, not only to this country, but also to the country in which he lived; and, if he wished to promote an agitation of the nature he advocated, he must be prepared to take the risk incurred. There had been other gentlemen not so deliberately restrained in their language. Some had gone to the extent of deliberately preaching the assassination of Europeans. Such language would not be tolerated by the democracy in this country for a moment. He did not believe that to be the feeling or desire of the democracy in India, and it was the duty of the democracy in both countries to put a stop to such a state of things. The second reason urged for an inquiry was that there had been a great ravaging of India by the plague. No one could fail to sympathise with the people of India in the horrible infliction of plague which had fallen upon them. But that was not the hand of man; it was the hand of God. No man was more moved by the sufferings of the people of India than his right hon. friend. [An Hon. Member: Don't blame God for it.] Let them consider what the Indian Government had done to mitigate this misfortune. The subject had been engaging their attention. They had made careful inquiries, and had taken such measures as were within their power, and as the inclinations of the people

Mr. Charles Hobhouse.

would permit. They could not press the people too much because that might rouse more dislike for the measures of relief than was likely to promote their success. The success of all their measures depended upon the co-operation of the people themselves. It was freely admitted that in some ways the executive which dealt with the plague wanted strengthening. They were prepared to supply native doctors acquainted with the habits and customs of the people, and sufficiently trained in sanitary science to cope with this great evil, and also to supply native assistants well acquainted with the measures to be taken for the relief of plague. One point greatly excited the interest of the people of India. They asked how it was that, while natives died in millions, Europeans died by single individuals. It was easy to understand how in the minds of an ignorant and easily excited population suspicion might be aroused by the disparity in the numbers who died. Scientific investigation had proved that plague was largely disseminated by the agency of rats, and of fleas which infested the rats, and it was a fact that rats were mostly found in native houses. A further cause of contamination was germs in the soil, and the natives, who walked barefooted, took up those germs from the earth as they walked, while Europeans were protected by their shoes. Laboratories were being widely established to meet all the demands for inquiry, and all possible means which human ingenuity could suggest and science could devise were being taken by the Government of India to cope with the evil. Passing to the suggestion that a cause of plague was the poverty of the people of India, he reminded hon. Members that it was almost impossible to prove the poverty or wealth of a country by the income per head; but some indication as to whether wealth or poverty was increasing might be obtained from the accumulation of wealth by trade and by the amount of credit which bankers and moneylenders were prepared to give to individual agriculturists and traders. Applying the test of trade he found that in 1902–3, the total trade of India, imports and exports, was £166,000,000, in 1903–4 it had grown to £199,000,000, in 1904–5 to £212,000,000, in 1905–6 to £214,000,000, and in 1906–7 to £229,000,000, so that there was an increase of trade of £63,000,000 in four years. It was quite evident that a people whose trade had grown in that manner could not be said to be growing poorer as years went by. He passed from that and gave the increase of cultivated land, not laying too much stress on the figures, because they varied from year to year. He took ten-year periods and excluded Burma. In 1884, the land under cultivation was something like 161,000,000 acres; in 1894, the area under cultivation had gone up to 188,000,000 acres; and in 1904, the last year for which he had the figures, the cultivated area of India had gone up to 195,000,000 acres. If these two sets of figures were put together it would be seen that the cultivated land of India—and India was very largely an agricultural country—had enormously increased in area side by side with the extraordinary increase in trade to which he had referred. That was an indication—he did not wish to drive the illustration too far—it was an illustration of the general progress in prosperity of the people of India. He passed to the question of land revenue, upon which Members had spoken with requests for information. He did not suppose there was ever a more complicated system of land assessment for revenue than that which obtained in India; the multiplicity of races had led to a corresponding multiplicity of customs, and if his description was not germane, not applicable, to every province and every tribe, the House would understand it was the best summary he was able to give of a most difficult subject. The system of land revenue in India—and he thought that in this respect there was a good deal of misunderstanding among Members of the House who were not personally conversant with Indian customs—was practically this. Rent was paid by the occupier to the owner, and the owner out of that rent paid the land revenue, which was assessed at the highest at 65 per cent. of the rent, which was offically referred to as the net asset or the surplus. The occupier paid the rent to the owner, where the occupier was not owner, and the owner paid the land revenue, which at the very outside was 65 per cent. of the rent, and far more generally 40 per cent, and in a great many cases went down to 24, 25, and 26 per cent. The case of Rawalpindi was a little complicated by the fact that since it was taken over from the Sikhs the district had been split up and divided, but, roughly speaking, its taxation was this, taking it as a typical case. When the Rawalpindi district was under the Sikh rule the land revenue raised by them amounted to ten lakhs of rupees. When we took over the district the revenue was reduced to seven lakhs, and so remained for twenty years. In 1884 the revenue went up to 9¾ lakhs, and in 1904 rose to twelve lakhs, so that, using round figures, the assessment under the Sikh Government was ten lakhs and now had risen to twelve lakhs. The acreage had increased faster than the land revenue; so that, while the increase in the net revenue was about 20 per cent., the increase in the area of cultivation since Sikh days was at least 50 per cent. It would thus be clear to the Committee that in a district where so much had been heard about the iniquity of taxation the increase in the area cultivated would far more than cover the increase in the land revenue rents.

*MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth) said that. in answer to a Question, the Secretary for India had told him that the increase was 33 per cent. in the first twenty years and 25 per cent. in the second twenty years.

*MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE replied that his comparison was with the assessments levied by the Sikhs. Since the first British assessment the increases had been as stated. The question was also complicated by the fact that the Rawalpindi district then did not correspond with the district that the Government had taken over. It was possible, however, that the assessment was too large for the means of the occupier. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe division had drawn attention to a fact which must be apparent to everyone who had followed the course of instruction undertaken by the Hindus who came to this country, and their experience when they arrived here. He did not think that the whole of their surroundings in this country were always the best that might be provided. He was not sure that they were always on the best terms with their European fellow students at the University. It was a subject that had occupied the attention of his right hon. friend for some time, and though he could not say that any definite suggestions were actually under his notice, an inquiry had been instituted by him which they hoped might lead to a better feeling of *camaraderie* between Indian and European students at the University, and which he hoped would have a beneficial effect on their career when they came to be administrators. What the Secretary of State offered to the people of India was a great extension of local councils. The hon. Member for Nottingham had said that the only way to benefit the people of India was to accede to the demands of the National Congress. He differed from the hon. Gentleman entirely. The essence of all administration in India was to bring home to the people of each province that the Government which really controlled them was the Government which was in daily touch with their concerns. That consideration had influenced his right hon. friend to propose the inquiry into over-centralisation, and to that extent the Government and the supporters of the Resolution which had been moved were in accord. He wished to point out that the Resolution which was supported by his two hon. friends asked either for a Select Committee or a Royal Commission, and it was the second of those alternatives which his right hon. friend had accepted. In conclusion he wished to say that it was consonant with Parliamentary conditions to grant an inquiry, not into the general administration of India, but into a particular aspect of it. This inquiry was granted not because of unrest in India, or because there had been pressure in the House of Commons, but because his right hon. friend wished to bring home to the different peoples of India that the people of this country desired so to manage their great heritage in India not only that their rule would be recognised as just, but that it should also contribute to the moral and material advantage of the people of both countries.

*MR. C. J. O'DONNELL said that with regard to India he was conservative as the people of India were conservative. The most successful Viceroy, the most clear-sighted and altogether the best in recent years was Lord Lansdowne, and he was very glad to say that Lord

Minto was following exactly on his lines, so that hon. Gentlemen opposite would see that he was prepared to treat India on an absolutely non-Party basis. When Lord Elgin left India, now some seven years ago, there was not only peace, but good humour. Lord Curzon when he landed was received not only by the Europeans, but by the natives in a most friendly manner. But that had all been changed within the last seven years, while Englishmen had been thinking of South Africa and the Education Bill and other domestic interests. The Government of India had been in the hands of an able, kindly, and just man, for so he regarded Lord Curzon, but, unfortunately he was also a visionary and an autocrat; he was full of ideas; he was going to change this, and he was going to change that; he was going to be a sort of Haroun-Al Raschid, and the result was that he had fallen foul of pretty well everybody. He dismissed his Foreign Secretary and his Home Secretary, he drove the hon. Member for Nottingham out of Bengal and the hon. Member for Stirlingshire out of Burma. He started a number of crude reforms, and with the powers of an autocrat, he created a good deal of friction. But he knew that the noble Lord had had trials and he sincerely respected his feelings. He felt, however, that Lord Curzon had failed in India, and he had left behind him a heritage of trouble. [Cries of "No, no."] He regretted to say that it was true and even the British Army in India thought so. [AN HON. MEMBER: It is not true.] What about the 9th Lancers? With the very best intentions Lord Curzon punished that gallant regiment instead of punishing the officers who neglected to investigate the murder. He was sorry to say anything unkind of Lord Curzon, but he was made to do so by hon. Gentlemen opposite who interrupted.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): The 9th Lancers formed an escort to Lord Curzon at the Durbar.

*MR. C. J. O'DONNELL said he would turn to another question referred to by the Secretary of State for India. The right hon. Gentleman's remarks with regard to Lala Rajpat Rai practically meant that there was no evidence in the hands of the Government that he committed any offence, because, as a matter of fact, Rai had been careful throughout his career, though a strong and clear thinker, to proclaim his regard for the Government of England. These men knew that it would mean absolute ruin for India if the English Government were withdrawn. They regarded the Government of India with affection, the great mass of them, but they felt that now and then some acts of administration were unwise and that the pressure of taxation was more than the peasantry could bear. With regard to the Royal Commission on decentralisation, he agreed with the hon. Member for Nottingham; he thought it was a matter between the supreme Government and the local governments. But it did not touch the grievances of the people. Whether the Government had more decentralisation or less decentralisation was a matter of perfect indifference, and it in no way met the request of hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House that they should really try to find out what was really worrying the people of India at the present time. One characteristic of the Indian character was that above all things he liked to have his case heard fairly. If his case was fairly heard he was often contented. Let them not talk about sympathy, but let them give proof of it. As to the Council of Notables, he thought that it was an admirable idea. He would be delighted that not only the Viceroy would have the advice of the great nobles of India, but that the Lieutenant-Governors and the Governors of India should also have the advice and assistance of leading Indians. As to the increase of the number of members on the Legislative Councils, he was afraid that he could not speak so much, because he thought that the Indians were well represented at the present moment. It was quite true that they had not a majority, but he did not think that they could carry on the government of India if it was so. He did not see that there was much difference whether the Legislative Council was twenty or thirty, if the natives were always in a minority as they must be. There was no mention in the right hon. Gentleman's speech of the partition of Bengal. He would tell the right hon. Gentleman plainly that until there was a modification of the partition of Bengal there would be no peace in Bengal. At first the people of Bengal rejected any partition, but the hon. Member for Nottingham and himself had done their best to persuade the people of Bengal to accept partition, and in that they had succeeded. They were perfectly prepared to accept partition with a modification that would keep all the Bengali-speaking races under one government. It was a simple thing to do. They would have an intelligent arrangement with 45,000,000 on one side and 30,000,000 on the other. Why did they go on hurting the national feeling of these people? It was perfectly objectless. The only result was this intense bitterness which had grown up. The officials of India were in some cases self-willed bureaucrats, and they had resisted any modification of the partition arrangement. Only one Mussalman nobleman had supported the Government in their partition policy, and that man was a bankrupt who only a few weeks ago had to be provided by Government with a sum of money to pay his debts. The 16th of October was treated by the Hindus as a day of sorrow, and they showed their grief in every way they could. The Nawab gave a great dinner which was attended by the leading European officials. Was not that a shameful thing to do when the great mass of the people were showing their grief? It should be remembered that the Hindus numbered 230,000,000, and it should be the aim of the Government not to raise bad blood with them. He might be accused of stirring up sedition. He was trying to save the Empire from the greatest danger that could befal it, and that was an internecine struggle between the Hindus and the Mussalmans. If the present policy was persisted in the time was not far distant when the Hindus and the Mussalmans would unite, then the trouble would be greater than ever. The local officials had put in the Government Gazette that wherever there was a vacancy only Mussalmans should be accepted. That was calculated to cause as much discontent in India as if the local authorities of Ulster were to say that only Roman Catholics would be appointed to public positions in that province. The Secretary of State knew very little about India, and he did not blame him for taking the advice of the officials in the India Office. No notice had been taken of the petitions of the people of Bengal. To use the words of an Indian ex-Judge, "The door of British justice was slammed in the face of the people of Bengal." It had been said that the people of Bengal were slapped on the face with a shoe. The right hon. Gentleman in his Budget speech last year said they ought not to hand over Indian administration to the supervision and criticism of the House of Commons. He thought that was wrong. The House was the arbiter not only in domestic but in Imperial affairs, and it would be false to its great traditions if it handed over so vast a population without supervision to a group of temporary officials, however able, however honourable, but possibly unwise.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after
Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 7th June, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sunderland Corporation Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Bonhill; and, Carluke; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petitions against: from Salford; Toxteth Park; and, Warrington (three); to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Ilford; Kilmaurs; and, Stewarton; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against: from Bearley; Blyth; Clevedon; Haven Street; Leytonstone and Leyton; and, London; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Mold, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Lichfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

VENTILATION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Copy presented, of Second Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the Ventilation of Factories and Workshops. Part I., Report. Part II., Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS).

Copy presented, of Directory of Industrial Associations in the United Kingdom in 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th April; *Sir Francis Channing*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 180.]

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Copy presented, of Letters Patent and Instructions relating to the Orange River Colony [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CROWN AGENTS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th March; *Mr. Austin Taylor*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 181.]

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of

Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1907–8 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 182.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Wheat Imports and Prices in France and England.

MR. TOULMIN (Bury, Lancashire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will give statistics of the imports of wheat and flour into France month by month for three years; and the price of imported wheat and flour at English and French ports at the periods of maximum importation into France.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The following table gives the particulars asked for in the first part of the Question. No information is available as to the monthly average values at which wheat and wheat flour have been imported into France. The French system of establishing the values of their imports and exports is that of official valuations fixed annually for each description of article, and these valuations are not decided upon until a considerable time has elapsed after the close of the year to which they relate.

Statement showing the quantities of wheat and wheat flour imported into France for home consumption in each month from January, 1904, to April, 1907, inclusive.

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Imports of Wheat for Home Consumption.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
January - - -	309,000	296,000	257,000	537,000
February - - -	252,000	403,000	212,000	434,000
March - - - -	424,000	321,000	235,000	600,000
April - - - -	270,000	317,000	279,000	581,000
May - - - -	311,000	313,000	326,000	—
June - - - -	222,000	241,000	465,000	—
July - - - -	270,000	259,000	344,000	—
August - - - -	386,000	298,000	781,000	—
September - - -	262,000	300,000	949,000	—
October - - - -	363,000	395,000	894,000	—
November - - -	527,000	194,000	623,000	—
December - - -	464,000	259,000	678,000	—

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Imports of Wheat Flour (actual weight) for Home Consumption.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
January - - -	32,000	43,000	23,000	40,000
February - - -	62,000	34,000	9,000	23,000
March - - - -	51,000	24,000	10,000	29,000
April - - - -	26,000	24,000	14,000	40,000
May - - - -	30,000	18,000	10,000	—
June - - - -	26,000	14,000	10,000	—
July - - - -	28,000	19,000	14,000	—
August - - - -	34,000	3,000	13,000	—
September - - -	18,000	12,000	10,000	—
October - - -	18,000	14,000	21,000	—
November - - -	35,000	28,000	19,000	—
December - - -	45,000	13,000	20,000	—
Imports of Wheat and Wheat Flour (in its equivalent of Grain) for Home Consumption.				
January - - -	353,000	356,000	289,000	593,000
February - - -	338,000	450,000	224,000	466,000
March - - - -	495,000	354,000	249,000	640,000
April - - - -	306,000	350,000	298,000	636,000
May - - - -	353,000	338,000	340,000	—
June - - - -	258,000	260,000	479,000	—
July - - - -	309,000	285,000	363,000	—
August - - - -	434,000	302,000	799,000	—
September - - -	288,000	316,000	963,000	—
October - - -	388,000	414,000	923,000	—
November - - -	575,000	233,000	649,000	—
December - - -	527,000	277,000	706,000	—

Depletion of Home Establishments of Engine-Room Artificers.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the reason why the Home establishments and ships under repair are being depleted of engine-room artificers to make up the necessary complements for ships commissioning.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There has been no change in the direction of diminishing the number of engine room artificers available for the repair of ships in Home waters. The difference between the previous system and the present is that engine-room artificers awaiting draft, and borne in the depot's supernumerary, were then employed to some extent on work in ships in dockyard hands; now they are employed in effecting repairs in ships in commission, and thus arresting the development of defects which would necessitate the ship being placed in dockyard hands.

Pay of Post Office Messengers.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that no improvement has taken place in regard to the maximum pay of messengers since their creation over forty years ago; and, if so, will he state whether it is his intention to make any improvement in the conditions of labour of these men.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am afraid, as my honourable friend will I am sure appreciate, that I cannot consider any question of wages until the Select Committee have reported.

Police Evidence.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of the desire of policemen to obtain convictions, and the injustice occasionally resulting therefrom, as illustrated in the Beck and Edalji cases, whether it is proposed to issue any special instructions on this matter to police authorities, or to make independent corroboration essential to the admission of police evidence in every case affecting human life or human liberty.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I do not understand the hon. Member's allusion to the Beck case. Mr. Beck was wrongly convicted, not because of any evidence given by the police, but because of a mistake in identification made by ten independent witnesses. I have no reason to think that the police generally, or in the cases referred to, have been actuated by any undue desire to obtain convictions, or that their evidence is for any such reason less reliable than that of other people, and I do not propose to issue any special instructions in the matter.

Police Reports on Licensing Matters.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the Reports of the inspectors of constabulary have ceased, for the last two years, to give the table relating to licensing matters; and whether the information formerly given in that table is accessible in any public document, or can be obtained privately in regard to any particular localities by application at the Home Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The table in question has been omitted since the year 1905, because information similar to that which it contained is now given in a much more full and more convenient form in the annual volume of Licensing Statistics, which began with the year 1905.

Microbes in Tramway Tickets.

MR. SUMMERBELL: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to an analysis of tramway tickets carried out by Dr. Busquet, of Bordeaux, and the statement made in relation thereto that four out of five tramway tickets taken at random in Paris may transmit dangerous diseases; and, if so, will he state whether he is prepared to have an analysis of tramway tickets in London.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) My attention has not been called to this matter, and, as at present advised, I do not think there is any need to take such steps as the hon. Member suggests.

Employment of Pensioners as Temporary Officers in Prisons.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a man who has been pensioned at the rate of 22s. weekly from service at Wakefield Prison, because of incapacity through an accident, is employed periodically at the prison at 4s. per day; and whether there is any regulation or practice respecting the service of such men in receipt of a pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) A man is employed at Wakefield Prison who was superannuated on account of age in 1903, being then sixty-one years old. He made a claim for increased pension on account of injury sustained, but the claim was not allowed. It is a common practice at the prisons to employ pensioners as temporary officers in cases of emergency and in relief of the ordinary staff. The regulations provide that "the amount paid to each 'civil pensioner' temporary officer during any one year, together with the amount of his civil pension, must not exceed the amount of salary and emoluments on which he was pensioned."

Publication of Report on Herring Curing.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he could lay before Parliament the Reports based on the Home Office inspection of herring-curing establishments at Scottish ports, and procured by the Local Government Board for Scotland, as mentioned in the Twelfth Annual Report of that body.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The Reports are somewhat voluminous and detailed and cannot well be summarised; while the Local Government Board's action is described in the Local Government Board Report, to which reference is made. Publication in full does not, therefore, seem necessary or justifiable, on the ground of expense.

Payment of Prize-Money to Heir of William Bell.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will consider the possibility of giving the prize-money due to William Bell, master gunner of H.M.S. "Northumberland," who was killed in action in the year 1798, to his descendant, Henry Edward Matthews, of Sea View, Isle of Wight, who is prepared to prove his lineal descent, seeing that the prize was a Spanish galleon and the money was given as an endowment to Greenwich Hospital.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) All prize-money over forty years in distribution is forfeited absolutely under Order in Council of the 5th December, 1865, made pursuant to the Naval Agency and Distribution Act, 1864. The prize rolls for so remote a period as 1798 have therefore long since been destroyed, and there is now no record as to whether any prize-money was due in the case of this officer, or, if due, whether it was paid.

Discharge of Sewage into the Thames Estuary at Southend.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that, although an expenditure of many thousands of pounds has been incurred by the town council of Southend-on-Sea in defending their action of discharging crude sewage into the estuary of the Thames in defiance of all constituted authorities, and moreover of violating the principle laid down so emphatically by the Commissioners on Sewage Disposal, the town council has been served with another writ by the owner of the Hadleigh Ray oyster beds; and whether, seeing that in the recent action in the High Courts judgment was given against the corporation, involving some £8,000 damages and costs, he will bring in a Bill, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners on Sewage Disposal, to prevent the pollution of rivers and estuaries by all local authorities.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have not received any information as to the further writ referred to. I am afraid that I cannot hold out any expectation that I could introduce a Bill during the present session on the subject mentioned in the last part of the Question.

Telegraphists doing Sorting Work at Derby.

MR. BELL (Derby): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that skilled telegraphists are being employed in the sorting office at Derby, owing to decline of telegraph work; that at the time of transfer these men were assured that, as opportunity afforded, they would be reinstated on telegraph duties; and that a pensioned overseer and casuals are now employed on the telegraphs; and if he will take steps to get the transferred telegraphists reinstated.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am inquiring into the particular circumstances referred to by the hon. Member and will communicate with him.

Construction of a Road from Cahircivane to Clogvoola.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that representations have frequently been made to the Congested Districts Board as to the necessity of constructing a road from Cahircivane to Clogvoola, in the Cahirciveen district; that, although a promise has been given that an inspector will be sent to report on the application, no inspection has been made; and can he say whether this promise will be given effect to; and, if so, when the inspector will be sent.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board have no funds for expenditure upon further public works during the coming year, and there is, therefore, no necessity for an immediate inspection in this case. The Board intend to have an inspection made before next autumn.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Reinstatement of Thos. Brady.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say what steps the Estates Commissioners have taken to secure the restoration of Thomas Brady, son of an evicted tenant who died in New York, November, 1906, on the Captain Smith, Bellamont Forest estate, Cootehill, county Cavan; will he say who is in possession of this farm; and whether or not he paid any fine on getting possession.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to his previous Question on this subject on 23rd April last.† The Estates Commissioners have no information that Thomas Brady, senior, is dead; but in any event they do not intend to take any further action at present on the application of Thomas Brady, junior. They will, however, make further inquiries when the estate is being inspected. The farm is now in the occupation of Robert Beattie. The Commissioners have no information as to the terms upon which he received possession.

Poor Relief Grant for Curlough.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution from the Curlough Relief Committee, Bawnboy Union, asking for a supplemental grant of £100 in relief of the destitute poor in this district; and, in view of the facts set out in the resolution, will the matter have his careful consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have received the resolution referred to, and will give it their careful consideration.

Intimidation in Ireland.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the publication on 1st June of certain resolutions passed by the Skreene and Dromard, Highwood, Geevagh, Ballyfarnon, and Moylough branches of the United Irish League, indicating persons whose conduct was objectionable and worthy of punishment; and, seeing that the publication of such notices is intimidatory to the persons so referred to, whether he will consult with the Law Officers with regard to the prohibition of such publications.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer to my Answer to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for the City of London yesterday.‡

Irish Grazing Land.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Roscommon County Council passed a resolution on the 1st June to the effect that the only possible method of dealing with the grazing system of Ireland was for the people to take the matter into their own hands by preventing the grazing ranches from being again occupied by the herds belonging to the banks and Jews in Ireland, and resolving to start a defence fund for the protection of persons under such advice; and whether His Majesty's Government will take, or have taken, any action in regard to this.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxii., 1556.

‡ See page 813

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Government have no information upon the subject of the resolution referred to in the Question beyond that derived from newspaper reports. Local authorities have no power to contribute from the rates to any such defence fund as is mentioned.

Annual Inspections of Irish National Schools.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the date of the annual inspection of each national school is fixed by the inspector in charge or by the senior inspector of each group of districts, or by the Education Office; whether any instructions have been issued within the past year to inspectors to hold the third examination before the usual time, or to exercise any exceptional exactness in cases in which the two preceding examinations were up to the required standard to warrant the promotion of teachers; and whether it is customary for inspectors to send, with the formal minute on each school, private information which may be used to the detriment of the teachers' interests.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Under the Commissioners' rules, inspectors are not bound to make formal annual inspections of all national schools; but, when it is intended to make such an inspection, the date is fixed by the inspector in charge, with the concurrence of the senior inspector and subject to the approval of the Education Office. The Answer to the remaining parts of the Question is in the negative.

Irish Primary Education.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will consider the advisability of submitting to the House a Supplementary Estimate on behalf of primary education as will make it a proper equivalent for the Scottish grant for similar purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) There is no present intention of submitting a Supplementary Estimate for primary education in Ireland.

SELECTION (STANDING) COMMITTEES.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B: Sir Francis Channing and Mr. Wolff; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Akers-Douglas and Mr. Black.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C: Mr. Everett; and had appointed in substitution: Sir Francis Channing.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Order for Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) rose to move that the Bill be recommitted to a Select Committee. Although the procedure which he recommended was somewhat unusual, he thought that on this occasion it was justified. The Bill was an old friend of Parliament and had on many occasions been before the Houses of Lords and Commons. In 1858 the Bill first passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons. That was seven years after the formation of the Marriage Laws Reform Association, and no doubt its passage on that occasion was largely due to that fact. It was rejected by the House of Lords. In 1862, 1866, and 1870 it was rejected either by the House of Commons or the House of Lords, and since that time, with perhaps the exception of 1904 and 1905, it had come before Parliament every year and had been rejected. He suggested therefore that the number of times which this Bill had been before the House did not go in any way to prove that all the facts of the question were known. All it went to prove was that the demand for the passing of the Bill had not been so great as had sometimes been alleged, otherwise it could not have gone on for half a century without reaching the Statute-book. It could not be adduced from the number of times that the question had been before Parliament that this Bill in particular was based on sufficient knowledge. Of the various discussions that had taken place some had been of an academic character and some of a real character, the nature of discussion varying as it must vary with the remoteness or the nearness of the possibility of such a Bill passing into law. He had never taken very much interest in the question, because he was always under the impression that it was not seriously intended, and that in the majority of cases in which it had been brought forward it was discussed more as an academic question than as a practical proposal. The Bill had never had the authority of the Government behind it; it had always been introduced by private Members. Now, however, when it seemed likely to pass into law he thought it was necessary for the House to consider whether the Bill as it stood actually gave effect to the principle to which the House committed itself upon the Second Reading. A Bill initiated by a Member of the Government, and having the advantage of the draftmanship available only to Members of a Government, had a great advantage over a Bill drafted by private Members. Although this Bill had had that perfunctory examination which most Bills got before Standing Committees he did not think anyone would say that such a Bill was as good as one which had gone through the hands of a Government draftsman and then through a Committee. If there had been any recent inquiries upon the subject he would not have so much objected to it, but the latest inquiry was the Royal Commission of 1847, and so far as he had read the evidence given before that Commission, that given by eminent ecclesiastics seemed to him not to bear out its recommendations, which were so exceedingly vague that he could not quite make out what was actually recommended. The Commission of 1847 was largely intended to inquire into the working of Lord Lyndhurst's Act of 1835. That Commission sat only twelve years after the passing of Lord Lyndhurst's Act. That was a very short time in which to get any valid or valuable experience of the working of such an Act. The number of cases were strictly limited, and to get evidence of any value a much longer period than twelve years must be allowed to elapse. The Bill was largely recommended because the Colonies had allowed such marriages to take place, Acts legalising them having been passed in Canada, Melbourne, in 1872, New Zealand, in 1875, and in Cape Colony as recently as 1892. The experience which must exist in those Colonies had not been regarded in any way whatever. It would have been interesting to know what had been the effect in Australia, Canada, and Cape Colony of such a measure, and he submitted that before they passed the Bill such information ought to be secured. It was not as if the Bill was of a trifling character. When they were about, as he believed, to pass a Bill which would be a great shock to the consciences of the people his argument that it should not be done without full consideration was strengthened to an overwhelming extent. If they proved that the religious aspect could be obliterated from people's minds, they might perhaps pass the Bill without much injury being done. But could that be proved? No doubt opinions changed as to the reading of the Scriptures. In the light of the greater knowledge of the ancient tongues which was constantly being obtained, disputed passages in Scripture did no doubt assume new meanings, and he submitted that strict inquiry as to the true meaning of the particular passage in Leviticus, upon which the supporters of this measure relied, would be of the greatest value and assistance. The 18th verse of the 18th chapter of Leviticus, which was the only verse in the Scriptures upon which supporters of the Bill could rely was capable of a totally different interpretation from that which was placed upon it. No one would deny that the Bill if passed in its present shape would create a serious divergence between ecclesiastical and civil law, and it was a step that should not be taken without the greatest consideration and deliberation. If that divergence was to be created it, at all events, ought to be by a Government Bill, and they ought first to see if ecclesiastical and civil law could not be brought into conformity. He need not labour the social and domestic effects of the Bill. To break down in one degree the principle that affinity and consanguinity in relation to marriage were almost synonymous terms would make a great alteration in all domestic relations. It would not affect only those who desired to marry a deceased wife's sister, but also those whose wife was alive and had a sister. It would affect the domestic relations in every branch of the family life. It would prevent very often a man's daughter going to live at the house of her uncle and aunt, and it would narrow the domestic circle by compelling a man to cease to regard his wife's relations as his own. For these reasons he asked for further inquiry and investigation before assent was given to the principle involved in the Bill. Then there was the legal aspect of the question and the way in which the Bill prejudicially affected personal rights. He did not know who the legal experts might have been who had drawn up the particular clause dealing with that matter or whether it was valid in law. He did not suggest that he would be content if it had been drawn up by the Government draftsman, but on these legal questions it was always as well to get the opinion of more than one member of the profession. He would feel inclined to question that clause. He might be told that the clause absolutely safe-guarded existing rights, but in an old country like this, where there was every conceivable kind of complicated right, vested or in expectancy, he would like to know whether it absolutely safe-guarded them all. Again, the paper issued by the Colonial Office in 1904 with reference to the marriage laws of the Colonies gave no information as far as he was aware of the effect of the retrospective action of such laws. When he saw twelve or fourteen new clauses on the Paper dealing with these legal difficulties he thought he was justified in moving that the Bill should be re-committed. If, as he hoped, his Motion were carried, it might be possible to obtain from the Colonies information as to whether marriages of this character had created any legal difficulties or not, and as to the effect of the retrospective action of Bills of this nature; and with the information they would then have before them the House would be able seriously to consider the Bill.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) said he rose to second the Amendment on somewhat different grounds from any which his noble friend had advanced. The Bill would seriously derange the social life of the community and alter the point of view from which many people had hitherto regarded the marriage law. There was no evidence of a very great demand for the Bill. For a great many years it had been passed by one House and rejected by the other, and in no single case, so far as he was aware, had there been the slightest expression of dissatisfaction at its rejection. The truth was that the great majority of the people were indifferent upon the subject, a small minority was in favour of it, and a strong minority against it. He personally thought there was a strong case for inquiry. It was quite true that, even if the Bill were re-committed, and came back to the House in an amended form, he would still oppose it as strongly as he could, because he thought these marriages were contrary to the law of God, and he would do his best to prevent the House passing a law which he believed to be against Christian principle. But although he objected to it on principle he would not object to it nearly so strongly if the Bill was so framed and so carefully worded as to prevent many of the evil effects which, he thought, were perfectly certain to result from the carrying out of the principle in the form proposed by the promoters. He would put his argument in this way. His major premiss was that, in the form in which it came down to them that day, the Bill was absolutely unworkable and must, if carried out in that form, produce the most serious and disastrous effects. It must have two consequences, at all events. It would create, in the first place, a disastrous conflict between the canon law, on the one hand, and the civil law on the other, and it would throw into hopeless confusion the existing law with regard to marriage in all its aspects—legitimacy, succession to property, and divorce. His second premiss was that, under the Rules of Procedure, it was practically impossible to discuss in Committees of the House any method for carrying out the principle which would be less open to objection. His conclusion was that the only reasonable and practical course was to refer the matter to a Select Committee, which would be capable of taking evidence and of considering the subject in all its bearings, and would then present a Report to the House containing their conclusions as to the best and most reasonable method of carrying out the objects which the promoters had in view. They could not legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister without *ipso facto* setting aside the principle of the canon law upon which the English marriage law had hitherto been based, namely, that of the tables of affinity. They were going to create for, he thought, the first time in English history a class of marriages which was regarded as valid by the law of the State and as sinful and unlawful by the law of the Church. It might, perhaps, be urged that they were doing precisely the same when they legalised marriage between divorced persons, but he thought that such marriages stood on a totally different footing. The objection to marriage between divorced persons was totally different. According to the view of the Church, and according to the words of the Marriage Service, "Until death do us part," such a marriage was a contradiction in terms and sinful. For the first time they were settingup a class of marriage which was to be recognised as legal by the State, but which was denounced as invalid and sinful by the Church. As every reasonable person would admit, that was a very serious consequence. They had the Established Church at the present moment—he could argue the advantages and disadvantages of establishment if it were in order—and every one would agree that so long as they had the Established Church it stood before the public as the official exponent on all public occasions of the view of the Christian religion, and it was undesirable that the point of view of the Church as regarded legislation should differ from the point of view of the State. *A fortiori* it was most pernicious that the law of the Church and the law of the State should actually be in conflict. That was one aspect of the Bill which he thought had been insufficiently considered. The promoters of the Bill had shown that they were conscious of the scandal which would be created if the State, not content with setting up machinery of its own for the legalisation of these marriages, were actually to condemn people, who were members of the Church, to seek the consecration by the Church of those guilty of what the Church regarded as sinful, because, in the Bill, as originally introduced and discussed on the Second Reading, they inserted a clause expressly providing that if these marriages were celebrated by a clergyman of the Church of England *ipso facto* they were to be regarded as invalid. That provision had been dropped in Committee. The arguments against its insertion were almost equally strong as the arguments against its omission. He merely instanced it to show that the dropping out of the clause produced a wholly new situation by which they were confronted since the Second Reading, and it opened up a large number of problems which, so far as he knew, had never even been considered at all. No clergyman was to be obliged to celebrate an illegal marriage. Was he to be obliged to lend the use of his church? In the Divorce Act it was expressly provided that the clergyman should be exempted from the necessity of celebrating marriages of divorced persons, but it was expressly laid down that he must lend the use of his church to any other person who was willing to celebrate them. That point, at all events, should be made quite clear in regard to marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Supposing a clergyman did not wish, in what he conceived to be obedience to his ordination vow, to grant the privileges of church membership, communion, or even burial in consecrated ground, to persons who had contracted such marriages, was he to be allowed to withhold them or not? The right hon. Gentleman, he observed, preserved a very significant silence. Supposing a clergyman of the Church of England did celebrate such a marriage, was he to be left subject to all the penalties, including deprivation, which might be inflicted upon him by his ecclesiastical superiors? Supposing, if the Bill passed into law, that anybody wished to institute a prosecution in any of the Ecclesiastical Courts in England or Scotland against persons who had contracted these marriages, was the law to protect those persons whose marriage was legalised by the Bill from suits of that kind? It seemed to him a very serious scandal to create—to set up, on the one hand, legalised marriages, while, on the other hand, the persons who had contracted the marriages might be prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Courts for having contracted them. To his mind, if they were going to legalise by the law of the State marriages which were not recognised by canon law, the only rational course was to lay down some broad principle upon which they proposed to go.

MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) asked whether it was in order for the noble Lord to discuss the principle of the Bill over again on the Motion before the House.

*MR. SPEAKER said the fact that the House had accepted the principle of the Bill he did not think seemed to be quite relevant to the Motion which would be made directly: "That this Bill be referred to a Select Committee," in order that certain things might be inquired into more carefully than they could be inquired into in Grand Committee or in Committee of the Whole House. All the arguments should be addressed to that point, to show that certain matters connected with the Bill could only be properly examined before a Select Committee.

EARL PERCY said if the hon. Member had waited a few minutes he would have seen the relevancy of his point. He submitted that the proper and reasonable remedy was to lay down some broad and general principle that marriages between relations of affinity should no longer be regarded as illegal, but they should only be recognised as valid if they had been celebrated before a civil registrar. He thought that would be in the interest of the people who contracted such marriages. Clearly the slur would be less upon them than under the system proposed. The Bill as it stood bristled with problems which the promoters foresaw but for which they were unable to furnish a solution. They were asked to devise in a few hours discussion a solution for all these legal perplexities and technicalities which had baffled, apparently, the Solicitor-General in Committee upstairs.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON (South Shields) said he did not admit that they were baffled by anything which took place.

EARL PERCY said they were left, at all events, to solve these legal perplexities with the conviction in their minds that the only satisfactory solution would be found on lines which it would be out of order to discuss. He passed from the question of the conflict between the canon law and the law of the State, to the equally important point of the disastrous confusion which would be introduced into the civil law as affecting the *status* of wives and children of valid marriages in this country. The authors of the Bill appealed to their pity. They said that the people who contracted those marriages were doing what they thought was right, and, consequently, the State should not arrogate to itself the right to say that the children of those marriages should not enjoy the rights of legitimate children. He did not see why that view was not equally applicable to any kind of marriage into which it was possible to enter and which the law forbade. The position of the children of the deceased wife's sister was not harder than that of the children of the deceased husband's brother. If the argument was true at all, clearly the only remedy was to treat these marriages as if they stood on the same footing as marriages hitherto regarded as legal. The promoters of the Bill had always pretended that that was what they intended to do. Did they, as a matter of fact, do that in this Bill? So far as past marriages were concerned, the children, by the retrospective clause of the Bill, were in the same position as the children of legitimate marriages; but they would not be entitled to succeed to a penny of property, and if their father chose to get married again during the lifetime of their mother they would be branded for all time with the stain of illegitimacy. That seemed to him a most scandalous state of things to set up. Was it not a great scandal that the State should say that marriage with the deceased wife's sister was valid, and that they should then proceed to pick and choose between the children of precisely the same kind of union? He asked the House to consider whether that was the result of the Bill. When the Bill passed, the children of a marriage between a man and a deceased wife's sister would stand in three different classes. There would be, to begin with, the children of marriages which had occurred before the passing of the Act, both parties to which marriages were dead. Those children would be regarded as legitimate by the State, but not entitled to any of the privileges which went hand in hand with legitimacy in the case of children of any other marriage. Then there would be cases in which the father had married again during the lifetime of the mother. The children in these cases would not be regarded as legitimate at all. Lastly, there would be cases of marriages which occurred after the Bill had come into operation, the children of which would be regarded as fully legitimate, and enjoy all the rights which attached to legitimacy. If the State could pick and choose in that sort of way it would be absolutely farcical. In the case of marriage to a deceased wife's sister, if the man subsequently married another woman, the State insisted on branding for all time that unfortunate woman as a mistress. Hitherto bigamy had been considered a crime in this country, but in the event of this Bill passing it would be regarded as no crime at all. It would be the first occasion on which bigamy had been held by law to invalidate, not the second marriage, but the first. The first marriage under this Bill was not to be regarded as valid at all. Supposing a man married his deceased wife's sister and subsequently became an adherent of the Church of England and was persuaded that that marriage was wrong, and, therefore, no longer desired to be married to his deceased wife's sister, the moment this Bill became law he would be married by force whether he liked it or not, and his deceased wife's sister would be entitled to bring a suit against him for restitution of conjugal rights. It would be the first time that the State had arrogated to itself the right to force a man's conscience in that way. The second clause of the Bill provided that marriage with a deceased wife's sister was not to be held to invalidate a will previously made. Supposing a man married his deceased wife's sister and died without making a will, not a penny of his property would pass to the unfortunate woman or her children. Moreover, the Bill was not clear in regard to the guardianship of the children, and that was certainly a point which should be provided for. He did not believe it was possible to deal satisfactorily with the Bill. by way of Amendments. He thought the Government themselves ought to put in a new claues to deal with this point. The law officers of the Crown ought to let the House know their views on the question. [Cries of "No, no."] He did not see why they should not, because they were the guardians of the legislation for the time being and they were bound to see that no serious injustice was done. The crowning absurdity was a new clause which had been inserted in Committee. It provided that nothing in the Bill was to remove a deceased wife's sister from the class of persons adultery with whom constituted a ground for divorce. If a deceased wife's sister appeared as co-respondent in a divorce case she was to be regarded by the law as standing in the same position as the man's blood sister, but the moment the divorce was obtained her marriage with the man would be valid. Could a more preposterous thing be imagined? That was a convincing illustration of the hopeless task of putting the Bill into shape. They were asked to try and put into a workable and rational shape a Bill which began by laying down that marriage with a deceased wife's sister was to be valid, which said that the children of such marriages were to enjoy none of the privileges of legitimacy, and concluded by asking them to assert that adultery with the deceased wife's sister was still to be regarded as an odious and atrocious crime. However the objections he had raised might be answered it was not open to the promoters to say that he had not challenged the principle of the Bill. He objected to its principle *in toto*, although he accepted the statement of the House of Commons that the present Parliament was determined that marriage with a deceased wife's sister should be legal. The principle laid down was that the English marriage law was no longer to be based upon the canon law of the Church, and that was a purely negative principle. From the standpoint of social expediency and morality it was desirable to have some principle by which people should be guided when they wished to know whether certain relationships might morally be entered into or not. It would be found impossible to devise adequate machinery for the carrying out of the objects of the Bill. He suggested that the best course to adopt would be to send the Bill to a Select Committee. He did not say that such a Committee should be empowered to take evidence as to the extent of the demand for the Bill. It was true that an inquiry did take place a long time ago which showed that there had been about 1,600 of these marriages, but only about forty of that total had been celebrated between persons belonging to the poorer classes. That showed how little demand there was for such a Bill amongst the poor classes and how essentially this was a rich man's measure. He did not, however, press that the Committee should be empowered to inquire into the demand, but that they should take evidence which bore directly and immediately on the way they were going to translate the principle of the Bill into action. The Select Committee, he suggested, should be empowered to take evidence as to the history of such marriages in foreign countries and in British colonies. He did not believe that this kind of marriage had ever been legalised in British colonies and at the same time made retrospective. There was not a British colony which had legalised marriage with a deceased wife's sister whch had not also legalised marriage with a deceased wife's niece. In Germany, marriage between uncle and niece was legal, and in the United States it was legal for a man to marry the widow of his own father. If the Committee thought it reasonable and desirable that more relationships should be legalised for the purpose of marriage than this Bill proposed, let them all be legalised at once. The third question to which he wished the proposed Committee to look into, was the effect the Bill would have in producing conflict between the civil law and the law of the Church. Lastly, they ought to inquire into the best means of carrying out the principle of the Bill, and at the same time preserving, what the promoters recognised the necessity of doing, the principle of divorce. He knew only one objection which could be urged to the adoption of the proposal, namely, that it would mean the postponement of the Bill for this session and a certain amount of delay in carrying it into law. Unless the Government was willing to accept responsibility for the Bill, it was practically impossible that it could pass in the time remaining for private Members' Bills. One of the chief reasons which had made it impossible for the Bill to pass in former sessions was that a great number of people who were not prepared to oppose it in principle, deeply feared that in active operation it would involve great hardships and a great number of complexities which the promoters of the Bill had not unravelled. A Select Committee could take the evidence of competent people conversant with the ecclesiastical and canon law, and, having the recommendations of the Committee before them, the House would be able to legalise the marriages in a form which would not be hurtful. If the promoters of the Bill were not willing to accept the suggestion, it seemed to him to amount to a confession that they were not ready to face the ordeal of a Select Committee. It was ridiculous to say that the urgency of a Bill which had been before the House for 100 years was so great that it could not be postponed for a year. If after the inquiry, there was a general consensus of opinion as to the means by which it could be carried out, the Government itself would be in a stronger position to make themselves responsible for it and to commend it to the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be re-committed to a Select Committee."—(*Viscount Helmsley.*)

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said the speech of the proposer of the Amendment carried its own condemnation. There was ample literature in the library of the House for anyone to make himself completely conversant with the subject. The Commission of 1847 consisted of the most eminent men of the day, and the fact that it took place some time ago did not affect the subject. The subject of marriage with a deceased wife's sister had been the same since the beginning of the world. This Bill had received full and ample consideration upstairs and the promoters had endeavoured, whenever they reasonably could, to meet the views of its opponents. They conceded what they thought they ought fairly to concede, and now he found that a provision which was included in the Bill at their request was the very one that they objected to. The promoters had endeavoured, and would endeavour, to be fair and honourable with their opponents. He hoped the opponents of the measure would be fair and honourable with them. Allusion had been made to the fact that the Bill was introduced by a private Member. He did not think that because a man did not receive a salary he was, therefore, unfit to undertake the Parliamentary duties imposed upon him. If the Bill had not been introduced by a private Member, it would have been very justly pointed out by hon. Members opposite that it should have been so introduced. The noble Lord who moved the Amendment was probably not aware that the Bill followed the wording of the Bill of 1896, the legal provisions of which were framed in consultation with the highest legal authorities of the day. With all due respect to the Government draughtsmen, he did not think they could be superior to Lord Herschell, Lord Halsbury, and the others who were consulted.

EARL PERCY: Does the hon. Member suggest that Lord Halsbury had a share in the framing of the Bill?

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said he thought Lord Halsbury was consulted in the framing of that Bill. Of course, he knew that his Lordship was not in favour of the principle of the Bill, but he had a hand in the framing of some of the clauses. A great many phrases were inserted on his suggestion. He did not wish to pursue that matter further. He hoped the House would be allowed to proceed to the consideration of the measure.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he agreed with the hon. Member opposite that a private Member was as entitled to bring in a Bill of this kind as a member of the Government. He had no great admiration for the members of the Government as such. The mere fact that they were in office did not make them wiser or better Members. The point made by the noble Lord the Member for the Thirsk Division was that the Government had at its disposal more machinery for inquiring into the effect of legislation and for drafting a Bill. When they came to deal with a matter of importance it was at any rate a recommendation that the Bill had been considered and discussed by a Government Department. The law officers had specifically stated that they considered this a matter of importance, but that they did not take any responsibility for the drafting of the measure or for the legal difficulties it would raise. Therefore, the opponents of the Bill were endeavouring to see that the legislation of the country was in proper shape and form. He could not agree with the hon. Member opposite that the Bill had received full and ample consideration in the Grand Committee. He did his best to see that the discussion was not perfunctory, but the supporters of the Bill took as little part in it as they possibly could. Without desiring to say anything offensive, he must say that they gave as little assistance as they could to the Committee in considering the Bill. The Government marked their sense of aloofness during the whole of the proceedings by practically not attending the Committee at all. The Chancellor of the Duchy was there, he thought, on one occasion. [AN HON. MEMBER: He is not a member of the Committee.] The Solicitor-General was there for one full sitting and part of another. Protests were continually raised in Committee because the Government had not thought it right to have a law officer present to assist them in their discussions. Questions of the greatest difficulty and complexity were constantly before the Committee. They were raised by his hon. and learned friend the Member for Kingston and others, and they were not dealt with at all. He saw an hon. Member opposite who did his best to assist the Committee, but he was not yet in the Government. The hon. Member was a kind of volunteer who dashed in when the regular troops of the army declined to advance. The Committee did make some Amendments, but it was difficult to say whether they were right or not. He thought some of them were right and that others were wrong. But did the promoters of the Bill really suggest that the inquiry before the Grand Committee was one likely to result in good and efficient legislation? He ventured to say that no one who was present at the Committee discussions would make any such suggestion. It was said on behalf on the promoters of the Bill that some of the clauses had been settled by Lord Herschell, Lord

Halsbury, and other legal authorities. When they said that, they thought they had answered the whole difficulty; but surely before the Bill was passed there ought to be a proper inquiry. If this was not one of those questions on which hon. Members had ceased to attempt to think impartially, he could not imagine that they would dissent from the statement that there ought to be thorough and complete inquiry before a change of such importance took place. They were for the first time asked to make a complete innovation in the marriage law. Up till now they had acted on the principle laid down hundreds of years ago, and widely adopted in the civilised world. That was a change of enormous importance, and the question whether it was right or not was another matter. There was another principle of enormous importance involved, namely, that the legislation was to be retrospective, and that the marriages already contracted were to become legal. A number of people, with their eyes open, and who knew exactly what they were doing, had chosen deliberately to break the law, and they were to be told that they never broke it. That was a principle which went to the root of civil and constitutional government. No one yet could tell what the result of retrospective legislation of that kind would be. Clause 2 had been inserted for the purpose of saving existing rights and interests, but there were many instances in which that provision would be insufficient. The retrospective action of the Bill was certain to lead to a large number of hardships and difficulties of a very complicated character, and the only way to guard against those disadvantages was by means of a thorough inquiry, with witnesses on oath. It had been said that the Bill had been put forward because there was a general demand for it by people who really wished to marry their deceased wife's sister; but on the other hand, that was as strongly denied, especially among the poorer people. Under these circumstances, they were entitled to know by investigation what were the actual facts of the case.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) thought that the Committee had not dealt with certain aspects of the case which ought to have been investigated. He did not agree with the hon. Member for North Norfolk that there was no need for inquiry into the question of demand. The petitions on the file of the House in favour of the Bill were very few, whereas there were a great number against it.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.), on a point of order, said that the hon. Member was raising the whole question of the general principle of the Bill, which had been thoroughly discussed on the Second Reading.

*MR. SPEAKER said that he understood the hon. Member to argue that if an inquiry were held it would be found that the strength of the feeling against the Bill was greater than some hon. Members imagined it to be. He, therefore, thought that the hon. Gentleman was entitled to raise the point.

*MR. CAVE said that the Westminster Confession of Faith set out that a man might not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than his own; and the Presbyterian ministers of Scotland some time since presented a strong address against the principle of the Bill. Apart from that, he thought that the inquiry proposed would be useful in showing the Roman Catholic attitude towards the Bill. Many Roman Catholics were in strong opposition to it, although on somewhat different grounds from those of the Presbyterian ministers. A Select Committee might find out what was the basis of their opposition to the measure. There was another point, that women ought to have their view presented. It was an extraordinary thing that in these days it should be proposed that while a man was to be allowed to marry a blood relation of his wife, a woman was not to be allowed to marry a blood relation of her husband. He had never been able to ascertain on what principle that distinction was founded. He thought it was Mr. Gladstone who said that by passing a measure of this kind they would open a floodgate which no power on earth could shut; and he believed that there was a great deal in that saying. For these and other reasons he insisted that a Select Committee should be appointed, empowered to go into the whole question. The noble Lord the Member for South Kensington had referred to a question which a Select

Committee ought to deal with, and that was how far the principle of the Bill would lead us. If he remembered aright, Mr. Gladstone had said that in certain parishes a census had been taken as to irregular marriages, and the result was that the largest number were marriages with a deceased wife's sister; second, bigamous marriages; third, marriage with a woman's deceased husband's brother; and fourth, marriage of a man with his deceased wife's niece. Surely, then, the demand for a change, as indicated by those figures, could not be adopted as a safe guide. He was confident that if a Select Committee were appointed some things would come out in evidence which would affect the minds of hon. Members who took an interest in this matter, and who were now in favour of the Bill. Again, it was a matter of no small importance that the retrospective action of the Bill would greatly affect the tenure of property. The law of property was very complicated, and the effect of retrospective legislation was often far-reaching. It was quite true that in the Committee upstairs Amendments were moved dealing with the question of tenure of property, but although they were dealt with very fairly, he was convinced that the Committee missed the importance of some of the questions which had been raised and that other questions of equal or more importance had not been raised at all. The general public had not as yet looked into the matter as one affecting property, but if a little more time were given, and there was a special inquiry, they would come forward with details which would enable the House to prevent injustice being done. Another matter into which the Select Committee might inquire was the effect of the Bill upon our relations with the Colonies in which there was an extraordinary diversity of practice. As hon. Members knew, in some of the self-governing Colonies a man might marry his deceased wife's niece, and in New Zealand a woman might marry her deceased husband's brother. He did not propose that the Colonial law should be adopted, and, indeed, he would very vigorously oppose any such proposal, but it was essential that the matter should be gone into thoroughly and if that was done it would be found, he thought, that they could not pass a Bill dealing with one branch only of the subject. He thought that he had shown that there were really matters of substance which would not in the ordinary course be considered by the Standing Committee and which could not be considered without the evidence of experts and others. If the demand for the Bill was as great as had been alleged, it was remarkable that His Majesty's Government, which claimed to be one of the strongest Governments of modern times did not introduce a Bill on the subject and did not now support the Bill, and although the Law Officers were present they said they were there only as private Members and not as representing His Majesty's Government. There was no such urgency in the matter that the Bill could not be referred to a Select Committee, in order that when the facts had been ascertained the matter might be finally dealt with.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) rose in his place, and claimed to move "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the question be now put."

The House divided: Ayes, 179; Noes, 27. (Division List No. 218.)

AYES.

Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A(Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,SGeo.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St Pancras,N.

Doughty, Sir George
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hope, W Bateman (Somerset, N.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)

Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bg'hs
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter

Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bowles, G. Stewart
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-

Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford)
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Mooney, J. J.
O'Doherty, Philip
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)

Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. William Redmond.

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be recommitted to a Select Committee."

The House divided: Ayes, 29; Noes, 182. (Division List No. 219.)

AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Cave, George

Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry

Crean, Eugene
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.Sir John H
Lundon, W.
Mooney, J. J.
O'Doherty, Philip
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Redmond, William (Clare)
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Carlile and Mr. Bowles.

NOES.

Agnew, George William
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(Tow'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Gr'nst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig,Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H. (St.Pancras,N.
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H .W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kinnedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Larne, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearson,Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Wladen)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russel (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts,S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rothschild, Hon.LionelWalter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiet, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry(Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

Bill as amended, considered.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER ruled out of order the Amendment standing in the name of the Member for Aston Manor providing that it should not be lawful for a man to marry the sister of his divorced wife during the lifetime of such wife.

LORD R. CECIL asked the Deputy-Speaker if he could not reconsider his decision. He submitted that since the result of the Bill would be to legalise marriage with a divorced wife's sister, the Divorce Act providing that upon a divorce taking place the marriage was to be dissolved in the same way as it would be by death, a Member ought to be permitted to move a clause declaring that marriage with a divorced wife's sister would not be legal.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said he thought the clause ought to be an Amendment to the Divorce Act, and was not in order on this Bill. He had carefully consulted Mr. Speaker on the question of whether it was in order on this Bill.

EARL PERCY asked whether he understood from Mr. Deputy-Speaker's ruling that it would be in order to move this as a new clause at the end of the Bill. He pointed out that the Divorce Act did not deal with marriages at all.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said his point was that it was out of order because it was outside the scope of the Bill.

*MR. CAVE said that the clause which he now proposed to move was intended to make the effect of the Bill somewhat clearer than it was. The word "sister" in the Table of Affinity did, no doubt, include a sister of the half blood, and he knew it had been suggested that if so they could rely on its having the same meaning in an Act of Parliament. He did not think that was so; the rule of construction of Acts of Parliament was not quite the same as the rule in the case of ecclesiastical documents. He thought it would be a good thing, therefore, to put in a definition clause, showing clearly that the sister of the half blood came in exactly the same relation as the sister of the whole blood. The point was a short one and he hoped he had made it clear to the House.

MR. LAWRENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford), in seconding, pointed out that a definition of the word "sister" in this Bill was quite as necessary as it was in the Workmen's Compensation Act of last year, where the family of the person to be compensated was interpreted to be brother, sister, half brother and half sister.

New clause—

"In this Act the word 'sister' shall include a sister of the half-blood."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Brought up, and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said this point had been raised in Committee, and he had pointed out then that the word "sister" legally included "half sister." As the word "sister" was the only word used in the table of prohibited degrees it was absolutely unnecessary to add this clause. The hon. Member had agreed with him in Committee and had withdrawn the Amendment.

*MR. CAVE said he did not agree at all.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said, of course, he could not offer any objection to it on legal grounds, but he would like to ask the Solicitor-General to state his views upon it.

SIR W. ROBSON said the Amendment was entirely unnecessary. The words might be added, but they were not required. All that was wanted were words co-extensive with the prohibition.

LORD R. CECIL thought it would be a desirable Amendment to introduce. Although it was quite true that neither in the Table of Affinity nor the Bill was there any definite reference to a sister of half blood, they were not dealing with the canon but with an Act of Parliament, and they should follow not the word ordinarily used by the canon but that ordinarily used in Acts of Parliament. He thought that as in the case of the Workmen's Compensation Act of last year, it would be necessary to insert these words.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the argument advanced by his noble friend was absolutely unanswerable. He was no lawyer and could not controvert the argument of the Solicitor-General. It might be true in law that it was not necessary to add these words, but in his opinion when they abrogated ecclesiastical law and substituted for it civil law, it was absolutely necessary that they should define exactly what they meant. He was at a loss to understand what the objection to this definition was. If the hon. Member had no objection to include the half-sister why did not he accept the clause. He emphasised the necessity of anybody who wished to take advantage of the Act clearly understanding what the Act really did.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said he would accept the clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

SIR F. BANBURY moved a new clause providing that the Act should not apply to Ireland. He said that his reasons for doing so were that the vast majority of Irish people were Roman Catholics and the Roman Catholic Church did not recognise these marriages, though in special cases it gave dispensations to enable such marriages to take place; secondly, that there was no demand in Ireland for such a measure; and, thirdly, that the people in Ireland should be consulted and it should be left to them to say whether they desired anything of the sort. He hoped the Members for Ireland who were present were authorised to speak for their Party on this matter. So far as he was concerned, he was in this case trying to preserve to Ireland the right in domestic matters to legislate for itself. No doubt if the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was in his place he would tell the House that Cardinal Wiseman, a prominent member of the Roman Catholic Church, had told him that there was no particular objection as a matter of expediency to this particular Bill. But the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church had held from time immemorable that these marriages were not lawful, although they had arrogated to themselves the right to grant dispensations. It was enough for the purposes of his argument to say that this custom of the Roman Catholic Church was sanctified by long usage, and was not lightly to be interfered with. As to the demand in Ireland for this Bill, his noble friend the Member for Kensington had stated that he did not care whether there was a demand or not. He himself would not go so far as that; he thought there was a small demand in England, but so far as he knew there had not been any demand on the part of Ireland. Lord Cairns, speaking on this very question in 1883, said that, so far as he knew the temper of Ireland, the preponderating vote would be entirely against the Bill. For fifteen out of the twenty-four years which had elapsed since then, he had had the honour of a seat in the House of Commons, and of being present at many Second and Third Readings of this Bill, but he never remembered its being advocated by the elected representatives of the people of Ireland. He did not wish to impose upon the Irish people anything which they did not like, and he moved this new clause entirely with the desire that they should have an opportunity of considering the question for themselves. There might be something to be said upon the question of property, but in such cases everything could be left by will. A question could only arise upon entailed property; but there was very little entailed property in Ireland at the present time, and very soon there would not be any at all. He begged to move.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) seconded the clause for the reason that, however undesirable the passing of the Bill might be for England or for Scotland, it seemed to him to be outrageous when applied to Ireland, where a huge majority of the people belonged to the Roman Catholic faith. It was a well-known spiritual rule and canon of the Roman Catholic Church that these marriages were absolutely illegal, and that they were not marriages at all. He was informed that the opinion of the hierarchy of that Church had undergone a considerable stiffening in that direction, and that while there were years ago many prominent divines who might have been in favour of such a measure, it was impossible now to find one who would not say that such unions were against public policy. What would be the consequence of throwing on the people of Ireland such a law as this? It was said that it was a permissive Bill, and that no one was bound by it. But the effect of it would be that the law said that such unions were legal and proper, while the religious persons in that country would believe that they were not marriages at all. To introduce such a state of affairs into Ireland was, in his opinion, wrong, and he would be greatly surprised if the House consented to it.

New clause.

"This Act shall not apply to Ireland."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

Brought up, and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said he had been a Home Ruler all his life, but he thought it was desirable that in such a matter the same law should apply to the whole of the United Kingdom. He did not wish to do anything to offend the religious views of anyone. He thought that a majority of the Irish Members had, as a fact, voted in favour of the principle of this Bill.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY questioned whether the complications which would ensue if this Bill was in operation in Great Britain and not in Ireland would not result in a worse state of affairs than if the Bill was in operation in the whole of the United Kingdom. The arguments used in favour of the clause led to a somewhat different conclusion from that to which the hon. Baronet had arrived, namely that the Bill, which, if it was to be workable, must apply to Ireland, ought not to be passed at all. The hon. Baronet had spoken of the Roman Catholic faith and the dispensations which the Roman Catholic Church had allowed on occasion to enable such marriages to take place. But those dispensations were very rare, and it had been laid down over and over again that they should only be granted for great public utility. A dispensation was allowed in the case of princes in order to make peace between two nations which were at war and where it was desirable that the heads of those nations should form a matrimonial alliance for the sake of peace. In such a case the Roman Catholic Church gave a dispensation because she thought the public benefit far outweighed the private wrong which she held such a marriage to be.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER asked whether the noble Lord would quote the evidence upon which he made the extraordinary statement that these cases were very exceptional, because Cardinal Wiseman said the exact contrary—that they were always granted.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said he had gathered it from the evidence and Reports of the Commissioners.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he was quoting from the same evidence.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said that, even so, the question of whether or not they had been granted in the past did not really invalidate his argument, because the right hon. Gentleman would admit that the principle of these marriages had been contrary to the faith of the Roman Catholic ever since the Church had existed.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he did not admit any such thing. Cardinal Wiseman said it was not a question of faith but of discipline.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said it was a question not only of discipline but of rule and doctrine. He believed he was right in saying that the view of the Roman Catholic Church was strongly against these marriages. Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, although he strongly objected to the Bill being applied to Ireland, he could not support his hon. friend because the inconvenience that would arise if it applied to Great Britain and not to Ireland, would be very great indeed.

EARL PERCY said he agreed with the observation of the right hon. Baronet that it was not in the abstract desirable that there should be a fundamental difference in the marriage law which obtained in one part of the United Kingdom from that in another. But in one point of view he felt some reluctance on the point, and that was that Ireland was a Roman Catholic country, and the Roman Catholic Church did grant dispensations in certain circumstances of an exceptional character. Therefore, as a result of these marriages in Ireland they at present laboured under greater disability than in the rest of the United Kingdom. Therefore, if the Bill were passed at all, there was far more ground for pity and sympathy, and for applying the Bill to Ireland, than to any other part of the United Kingdom. It would be impertinent for people who did not belong to the Church of Rome to discuss what was or was not her doctrine. But was it not a remarkable fact that the very country where they might expect that the present state of the law would undoubtedly create a real grievance, and where they might expect that the Church and the majority of the representatives of the country would come to the House and ask for relief, was precisely that part of the Kingdom in which there was no demand at all? So far as he recollected, in not a single instance had a representative from Ireland declared that this Bill ought to be extended to Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Roman Catholic Church regarded these things as contrary to the Christian faith. He had read the evidence given by Cardinal Wiseman, he had read public statements made and private letters written at a much later period by the great authorities of the Church of Rome, and he must say that they certainly did not express themselves in that way. For more than fourteen centuries the Church of Rome never gave a dispensation for marriage with a deceased wife's sister. There was not a single instance of such a dispensation until the year 1410, when it was given to Victor Emanuel. The Roman Catholic Church had allowed dispensations for a great number of other marriages; she allowed a dispensation for a marriage between an uncle and a niece; and the Church of Rome had always held that it was she and not the State who was to be the interpreter of the will of God. He could well understand that if the State was to enact this law, the result in Ireland might be that a number of sincere Roman Catholics might be tempted to contract these marriages in spite of the fact that they did not obtain a dispensation from the authorities of their own Church. Clearly it was an incitement to Roman Catholics to disobey the law of their own Church, and from that point of view he thought it was a very strong argument against forcing this Bill upon the people of Ireland.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the solicitude for Ireland of the noble Lord and the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London was most touching. But the Catholics of Ireland knew their own business in this matter. They knew the teaching of their own Church. The Irish Members must differ with regard to this Bill just as did Members in other parts of the House. They were not, however, going to take the doctrine of their Church from the noble Lord who had gone back to the fifteenth century. Although the Catholic Church did grant dispensations in certain cases, yet she was the best judge of the hardship of any particular case. Where she granted dispensations it was for good and sufficient reasons; but the hardship of the matter was that the law as it stood at present did not legalise those marriages and the children were regarded as illegitimate.

EARL PERCY was understood to say that that would apply equally to the children of other marriages by dispensation which were not recognised by the civil law.

MR. FLYNN said he was not discussing the point; he was merely referring to it with special reference to the noble Lord's solicitude which was so very touching. He knew that in the city and the county of Cork there had been scores of such marriages for which dispensations had been granted during the past ten years, and they included some of the most respectable members of the community. But by the law of the State those marriages were illegal and the children were regarded as illegitimate; the stain of illegitimacy was on respectable offspring. He would not take part in any game of hon. Gentlemen above the gangway. Irish Members, whether Catholics or Protestants, knew their own minds, and understood what suited them better than did the noble Lord.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) said he had great doubt whether he could support the Amendment. He was opposed to the Bill. The hon. Member for North Cork had called attention to the fact that members of his religion were in a very awkward and peculiar position. As a matter of expediency it was quite lawful for Catholics to vote for the Bill if they chose to do so. If he thought that Home Rule would be granted to Ireland at the same time that this Bill became the law of the land, he would then feel that the question might well be left to be settled by the Irish themselves. He admitted that, opposed as he was to the Bill, if it became law in this country and Ireland was exempt, his co-religionists in Ireland would be placed at a great disadvantage, and for this reason. They would not, at any rate he hoped and believed they would not, contract these marriages without the permission of their Chancellor. Having got the permission of their Chancellor, then, according to their own consciences, being fully entitled to contract these marriages, they would cease to obtain the legal advantages for their children which would be granted to their co-religionists in this country. He would like, before he came to a decision as to how he should vote on the Amendment, to hear further opinion from his co-religionists in Ireland as to how the Bill would act.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that if the motion to recommit the Bill had been adopted it would have been infinitely more satisfactory in every way. With regard to the attitude of the Irish Members and the Irish people towards the Bill, he could only point out that in this matter, as in most other matters of general importance, and not specifically affecting Ireland alone, there was a strong divergence of opinion amongst Irish Members. He had taken the opportunity of referring to the division list on the Second Reading of the Bill, and on the Motion to send the Bill to the Grand Committee. He found that the Irish Members were very markedly divided on the question, although he thought it was only fair to say, from what he could gather, that the majority of those present, irrespective of religion altogether, appeared to have voted for the Second Reading and also for sending the Bill to a Committee upstairs. There was absolutely no means of ascertaining at the present time, or in the course of a couple of hours on a Friday afternoon, what was the real settled opinion of the Irish people on the matter. The noble Lord had been good enough to tell Catholics what the actual view of the Catholic Church was.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY, as a matter of personal explanation, stated that he was really alluding to the historical aspect of the Roman Catholic Church and not so much to its attitude in recent years, about which he confessed he did not know.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that if the noble Lord and the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London knew what the exact attitude was which the authorities of the Catholic Church adopted, they must have had access to some means of information not open generally to persons interested in the Bill. His own position was, that while he quite admitted the accuracy of the quotations made from Cardinal Wiseman and from other high authorities of the Catholic Church of many years ago, he had not heard any distinct statement of a similar kind, made by the authorities, in a similar way, in recent times. There was no doubt that since the date of the inquiry when Cardinal Wiseman and others who had been quoted gave evidence, a very considerable change had taken place, and he thought that was altogether an argument in favour of a further inquiry which would lay all doubt at rest, and let them see exactly what was the opinion of those concerned from an ecclesiastical point of view. It was true that he had voted on more than one occasion for the principle of the measure; and if he refrained from voting for the Second Reading this year, it was because he found himself exactly in the position he was trying to describe. He found that there was unquestionably a great movement of opinion in regard to the advisability of such a Bill being passed.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): No. There is no change in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said his hon. friend was no doubt as good an authority as himself on these matters.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Is not the Pope the infallible authority of the hon. Gentleman?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had heard the opinion of the Catholic Church interpreted in various quarters of the House that afternoon, but he must really draw the line at the hon. Member for North Down. He submitted that there should be no reliance upon the Royal Commission of half a century ago, but that there should be a full and searching inquiry into the state of public opinion, and that all the heads of the great Churches, and others who desired to have their position known, should be afforded an opportunity of coming forward and saying exactly what their view was. Undoubtedly the matter had been before the country for a great many years. But the general degree of interest felt in the question was fairly well illustrated by the state of the House during the whole of that day. He had himself repeatedly entered the House since twelve o'clock, and had found hardly a quorum present. He submitted that the circumstance afforded proof that there was no strong, steady, convinced, and settled opinion on the matter. He did not see why any person should object to a full and free inquiry, or how any man, from a reasonable and commonsense point of view, could be satisfied with the findings of a Royal Commission which sat in the year 1847. What question of any sort, kind, or description was there which would be considered adequately dealt with if it was decided on the strength of the Report of a Royal Commission which sat half a century ago? He thought a clear case had been made out for an inquiry. The noble Lord on the Front Opposition Bench and others had said that if this Bill were to pass into law it would be unfair and inconvenient that it should be limited either to one country or the other. If it was going to be the law, it ought to be the law for England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and therefore he did not think the Amendment of the hon. Baronet ought to be taken seriously. What was wanted was a thorough inquiry, not to ascertain the opinion of the people of England, but to find out definitely and distinctly what was the desire of the people of Ireland and Scotland, and the attitude taken up by the Churches. The hon. Member for Cork had voiced the opinion of a section in Ireland which was very strongly in favour of the Bill; but there were other Members representing Ireland whose opinions were in a contrary direction. There was a division of opinion, and there was nobody in the House in a position to speak with authority on behalf of the Catholic Church or of any other Church in Ireland. That being so, it would be an unsatisfactory thing if the Bill were rushed through without a full and up-to-date inquiry.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he would not follow the hon. Member who had just spoken into the question whether there should or should not be an inquiry into the matter. The subject had been discussed for an hour and a-half——

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND reminded the right hon. Gentleman that the question was decided by the application of the Closure without any hon. Member from Ireland having been heard, although two Catholic hon. Members stood up to address the House.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER replied that he would not go any further into that question. He desired to contradict a statement which had been made by the noble Lord opposite as to the Church of Rome prohibiting these marriages, and that only a few exceptions were made.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said he was referring to historical times, and not to the action of the Roman Catholic Church in recent times.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he would quote on this point from the evidence of Cardinal Wiseman, who was asked, with reference to Scripture, "Is such a marriage held by your Church as prohibited?" The answer of the Cardinal was "Certainly not." Cardinal Wiseman laid down definitely that such marriages were not prohibited by the Catholic Church.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT said that if the right hon. Gentleman suggested that the Catholic Church allowed these marriages as a matter of principle, he was wrong.

***Sir HENRY FOWLER** said he was simply quoting the evidence of Cardinal Wiseman on the point, who said that though marriages within the degree of relationship would be considered unlawful by the Church of Rome, there was a power of dispensation exercised. The instances of these unlawful marriages in the eyes of the Church of Rome occurred generally in the middle and poor classes, and, in these circumstances, the Cardinal indicated in his evidence that that would be considered fair ground for granting a dispensation. He submitted, therefore, in opposition to hon. Gentlemen opposite, that it was not fair to convey the impression that the Church of Rome had no opinion on this question, and that the opinion of the Church had to be interpreted through the private Members of the House who belonged to it. The argument was that the Christian Church was not in favour of allowing these marriages on moral grounds. To that objection he answered that the Church of Rome allowed them. [" No, no," and cheers.] It granted a dispensation; could they grant a dispensation for immorality?

Earl PERCY said that the Church of Rome had granted, and did grant, a dispensation for a marriage between an uncle and a niece.

***Sir H. FOWLER** said the point was that hon. Members were charging these persons with immorality of the worst description, and the Bill was being fought on the ground that such marriages were immoral and wrong. That was why he had ventured to quote the opinion of Cardinal Wiseman, and to record his objection to the argument that the measure was proposed solely in the interest of the rich.

***Mr. TALBOT** (Oxford University) said that they had just listened to some very old arguments in favour of this Bill. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had forgotten the very strong testimony against it which came from the Liberal side, from such men as Lord Hatherley, Lord Selborne, and Lord Coleridge. Irish opinion seemed to be divided upon this question. How could they determine what was the real feeling of Ireland in the matter? By having an inquiry such as his noble friend had proposed. The question of the dispensation granted in regard to these marriages in the Roman Catholic Church was a somewhat thorny question. It should not be forgotten that that Church was still granting dispensations in other instances besides a marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and the difficulty of reconciling dispensations with the law of the land would not be got over by this Bill.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 220.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Baring,Capt.Hn.G(Winchester)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H; D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bright, J. A.
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd

Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin, Joseph
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Callum, John M.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David Jame
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Verney, F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fardell, Sir T. George
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Helmsley, Viscount
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Lundon, W.
M'Kean, John

Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Partick Joseph
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Evelyn Cecil and Mr. Bridgeman.

Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put accordingly, and negatived.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) moved a new clause exempting Scotland from the operation of the Bill. He said he would not have moved the clause if the Bill had been referred to a Select Committee. Had that been done evidence would have been brought forward and considered from the Scottish point of view. He admitted that there were serious difficulties in separating the case of Scotland from that of England, but still greater difficulties would arise if they made the Bill applicable to Scotland without further consideration of Scottish feeling in the matter. Scottish Members were too apt to turn their attention to those Bills which bore in the title the word "Scotland." Considering that they had the almost exclusive privilege of dealing with such Bills, they were apt to lose sight of the quite as important function of Members of Parliament, from whatever part of the country they came, of exercising their prerogative with regard to those even more important Bills which applied to all parts of the United Kingdom. Now that there was a Grand Committee to deal with Scottish matters, he was certain that at least some hon. Members opposite shared his fears that thereby they would often be deprived of the opportunity they ought to have of sharing in the consideration of Bills of great importance which extended to England as well as to Scotland. He admitted that purely Scottish Bills had perhaps a predominant interest for Scottish Members, but he failed to see why they were not equally interested in Bills which, although they did not contain the word "Scotland" in the title, affected the rights and privileges of Scottish citizens as much as those of English citizens. A much greater knowledge of the statutes than he possessed would be required to enable him to go at length into the legal aspects of the Bill, but it was a matter of common knowledge that the marriage law of Scotland was different in many serious respects from that of England. Was it possible that they could pass a large, sweeping, and universal measure of this sort without at least considering how it would affect the marriage law of Scotland in its peculiar aspects? The application of this restriction to Scotland by law was a matter of very recent years. It was forty-six years since one of the leading decisions of the Court of Session was given on the subject, and to that decision lawyers felt that certain difficulties attached. One of the contracting parties was, he thought, English; at all events both of them were domiciled in England. It was not until 1895 that a case involving this point in the marriage law came before the Courts of Scotland for careful consideration. So difficult was the question of the application of this restriction to Scotland, that it was not heard by a single Judge, or by the First or Second Division of the Court of Session, but it was referred, according to a usage rarely followed, to the whole of the twelve Judges of the Court. It was held then—only twelve years ago—that the restriction applied to Scotland as well as to England. It might be said that in view of a decision so recent the abolition of the restriction would not effect so great a change in the law of Scotland. But there was another aspect of the question. Although the restriction was only imposed by a strict legal decision given twelve years ago, it had been followed as the custom of the country, as the religious belief of the country, and as the settled practice of the country from time immemorial, and nothing was more certain in the social history of the country than that these marriages not so long ago were looked upon with quite as much disfavour as in England. He thought it would be well if they had the opinion of the hon. Member for Dumbartonshire, than whom no one was more competent to express an opinion on the question. The hon. Member had studied the question and was one of the leading authorities on marriage law both in England

and in Scotland. The fact that an important Bill of this sort had been dealt with by a Committee upstairs had prevented the hon. Member from having an opportunity of expressing his opinion upon it, and he hoped the House would have a statement of his view before leaving the legal aspects of the proposal. He was quite prepared to admit that the canon law had not for a long time exercised the influence in Scotland which it did in England. They did not need to go into prehistoric times to find that there was a period when the canon law did affect Scotland, and, though for the last three centuries it had ceased to have authority there, yet Scotland travelling by a different road had reached the same goal as England. The opinion of Scotland, he was certain, up to recent years, had been not less strong than that of England, that for the purpose of marriage consanguinity and affinity were, if not exactly on the same level, very closely akin. The principle of the canon law in the matter, he contended, had on other grounds been long the customary view and opinion of the Scottish people, it had moulded their habits, and it had been confirmed by their general religious belief. It was perfectly easy to show by looking back on the records of Presbyterian Scotland that that was their belief. The late Lord Cairns was impressed from his earliest days with Presbyterian views, and he retained in his later years strong sympathy with the Presbyterian Churches. In moving the rejection of a Bill similar to this in 1883, Lord Cairns, speaking in the House of Lords, said—

> "I know there are some petitions from Scotland in favour of the Bill, but everyone who knows Scotland will know that the heart and bone of Scotland are against this measure. I had the honour of presenting to-day a petition from the Free Church of Scotland against the Bill; if I am not mistaken, the feeling of the Established Church of Scotland is also against it; it is the same with the Episcopal Church, and I think it may be taken that the preponderating vote of Scotland would be entirely against the Bill."

That was twenty-four years ago, but at a later date a joint communication was made by the Established Church and the Free Church to the Nonconformists of England against the Bill, and seeking to form an alliance in opposition to it. No doubt there had been changes in the religious attitude of Scotland in recent years—changes that were kaleidoscopic in their rapidity. He was proud of his countrymen for the activity of mind that was thereby indicated. But he would advise hon. Members who thought that this represented the permanent view of Scotland to hesitate before they accepted that view. If there was anything in which action and reaction took place it was in the religious and social views of a community. They knew quite well that the latitudinarianism in Scotland at the end of the eighteenth century was succeeded by the most strict evangelicalism. Afterwards it became stricter still, and in his own early days nothing could have been more strict and formal than the Sabbatarianism of Scotland. They knew the present attitude of the United Free Church of Scotland, which was entirely revolutionised from that of a few years ago. Changes in social and religious opinions were bewildering in their rapidity. For the moment there might be an apparent body of support in Scotland for such a measure, but he knew that there was a deep feeling against attempting to tamper with the ties of the marriage bond. He had endeavoured to the best of his ability to ascertain what was the opinion of Scotland. There was no evidence of any ardent enthusiasm for this proposed change in the marriage law. [Cries of "Yes, there is."] They knew the views of the Roman Catholics and of the Episcopalians. So far as Presbyterians were concerned had there been any petitions presented from Scotland in favour of the Bill? The three General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland met recently. They presented no petition in favour of the Bill, nor did he believe that they supported it. Why was that? He was convinced that the great bulk of the people of Scotland were opposed to the proposed change. He had consulted a leading layman and a leading clergyman from Scotland. They told him that they themselves had formed no very strong opinion on the matter, and that they were not pledged to one view or the other. They found, however, so far as they could ascertain that while some people were bitterly opposed to the Bill, amongst its supporters there was a singular apathy in regard to it. He thought he had said enough to show that there was no pronounced opinion or keen enthusiasm for the proposed change. He noted that not a single Member for Scotland had spoken in favour of the measure, and that in the Committee upstairs they had no guidance from law officers of the Crown in Scotland. He begged to move.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) seconded.

New clause—

"This Act shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Brought up and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said that the same argument applied to this Amendment as to the last. The hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities had said that there was no strong feeling in Scotland in regard to this measure. He only wished that the hon. Member had the correspondence which he had had in regard to it. There was an overwhelming majority of the Scottish Members in the House in favour of it.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said he was sorry that on this occasion he could not agree with his hon. friend. He believed that most of the hon. Members for Scotland were at the present day in favour of such a Bill; and he thought that a Bill of this sort ought, if applied at all, to be applied not only to England but to he United Kingdom as a whole.

LORD R. CECIL said that the hon. Member for North Norfolk regarded this Amendment as similar to that which had just been rejected in regard to Ireland; but this Amendment had been moved by the Member for a Scottish constituency. He could not understand why other hon. Members from Scotland should have been so coy in regard to giving their opinion on the subject. It should be remembered that there was no material difference between the marriage laws of England and Ireland; they were very much the same. But there was a very material difference in the marriage laws of England and Scotland. He contended that there was a body of religious opinion in Scotland against the Bill, and that was an argument in favour of giving an opportunity for the reconsideration of the measure by the people of Scotland. It was for that reason that he would support the Amendment.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said he would like to know why it was that the only voice they had heard from Scotland in regard to this measure was strongly against it. He would ask hon. Members from Scotland whether they had ever been at their election "heckled" in regard to this question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

MR. STEWART (Greenock) said that he had been asked questions a score of times on the subject, and he had always promised to support the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 33; Noes, 240. (Division List No. 221.)

AYES.

Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Crean, Eugene
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fardell, Sir T. George
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.Sir JohnH.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson,JohnFrederickPeel
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E.Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Henry Craik and Mr. Evelyn Cecil.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen,A.Acland(Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashley, W. W.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Baring,Capt.Hn.G(Winchester
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bright, J. A.
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, George Denison (York
Fell, Arthur
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Helmsley, Viscount
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.

Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,SirC.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,SirJohnL.(Leeds,S.)
Ward,John(Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,JohnHenry(Halifax)
Whittaker,SirThomasPalmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wodehouse, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Eugene Wason.

EARL PERCY rose to move a new clause providing that the Act should come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1909.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON asked the Speaker whether the new clause was in order. He did not see how a retrospective Act could come into operation at a future date.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not see why the Amendment should not be in order.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: But it is retrospective.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Bill may be retrospective now, but it does not follow that when it goes out of this House it will be retrospective.

EARL PERCY, continuing, said that he did not particularly care whether the date fixed for the Bill coming into operation was 1909 or 1910 or any other date. The object which he had in view was that they should allow time for the parties affected to make fresh arrangements in order to avoid the disadvantages which otherwise they might be subjected to when the Act came into force. They were told that it was merely an enabling Act, and that all that it did was to enable people to do legally what they believed already they had a perfect right to do, and that there was no compulsion upon people to do anything. Supposing a man married his deceased wife's sister and afterwards came to the conclusion that the marriage was illegal. There were provided in the Bill only two practical ways of escaping from the position thus created. He must either go and marry somebody else or procure the lawful annulling of his marriage with his deceased wife's sister. For himself he did not propose to give men who had married their deceased wives' sisters time to desert them and marry somebody else, still less did he intend to give them time to concoct a case which would enable them to get the marriage annulled; but it was obvious that some machinery should be devised and some time should be allowed to parties who had contracted these marriages, but who did not desire that the marriages should continue, to escape from the dilemma in which they were placed. He did not at present see any way for them to do so except by means of the Divorce Act. If, therefore, the operation of the Bill were postponed to 1909 it would give them time to bring in an amending provision of the Divorce Act. So much for the parties to the marriage, but when he came to the case of the children and those connected with the parties it was quite clear that some time should be given to people to alter their testamentary dispositions. Let the House suppose that he, being unmarried, left all his property by will to the children of his brother; he did not say the children of what wife, but, not contemplating that his brother would marry again, meant the children of the then living wife. Let them suppose further that that wife died and his brother married his deceased wife's sister. He had the strongest possible objection to marriages with a deceased wife's sister, and even after the Bill was passed would regard children born of those marriages as illegitimate, and would not desire a penny of his property to pass to them. [Cries of "Oh."] Well, he might be wrong, but that was his opinion, and in his judgment if the Bill passed he ought to be given time to make a fresh will. The case was even stronger if he, having made a will in favour of his brother's children, had died before his brother had married his deceased wife's sister. He thought that Parliament should try as far as it could to carry out the wishes of testators, but if this Bill passed it would be impossible to do so, and the children of his brother's first wife whom he intended to benefit, whom he wished to inherit the whole of his property, and who had been brought up with the idea of inheriting a competency, might find themselves deprived of it by means of the operation of this Bill. The children of his brother's first wife might, with the idea of inheriting this competency, have adopted no profession or have taken up a most unremunerative one, and time ought to be given to them to consider their position and take up a profession or select another which would enable them to earn a livelihood. He begged to move.

New clause—

"This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and nine."—(*Earl Percy.*)

Brought up and read a first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. RAWLINSON, in supporting the clause, said it was the first time he had intervened in the debate on the Bill, and he did not want to say anything against it. In what he had to say in favour of the proposal he wanted to assume that this was an admirable Bill which the House desired to pass. He did, however, wish the House to pass the new clause for certain legal reasons which it was very desirable to consider. His noble friend had not exhausted the subjects which should be debated on this proposal. They were introducing a great change, and whether one regarded marriage as a civil contract or as a religious rite it had always been regarded as a contract to which both parties agreed. If this Bill passed, however, it would in many cases unite two parties who did not wish to be united. He would instance a case which was within his knowledge. Four years ago a man married his deceased wife's sister and lived unhappily with her for a year. After that the wife lived with somebody else, and the husband also was now living with somebody else. It was absolutely ridiculous by a Bill of this kind to unite those two people compulsorily when they did not want to be united. The mere fact, however, of the Bill, which was of a retrospective character, passing into law would force those people to become husband and wife, which they did not desire to be, and which they were not under the existing law of the country. Other cases could be brought forward in much larger numbers where the facts were not so extreme, but where as a matter of fact parties to such marriages had agreed to live apart. By this Bill, however, they would be made man and wife. He was not going to argue whether that was right or wrong, desirable or undesirable, but the only way out of the difficulty was for those parties to get the marriage annulled before the Act came into operation. It was for that reason, therefore, he asked that the operation of the Act should be suspended for a year, otherwise great hardship would be created. Let them assume that they wished to make marriage with a deceased wife's sister valid, should it not be made valid altogether, and should not the children be legitimate? The promoters of the Bill, however, had chosen a sort of halfway house and had brought about a sort of lawful wife, and a sort of legitimate children. The wife was to be a lawful wife for some purposes and not for others. If a man married his deceased wife's sister and died intestate, his second wife would not be entitled to a penny of his property under the Bill, and she was to be treated as his mistress and not as his wife. It was not merely a question of money but of titles. In the case of a Baronet, for instance, the quasi-legitimate child could not succeed to the title or property, but the brother's son would step in. He assumed that under those circumstances a man who had married his deceased wife's sister would not wish such an injustice to be done to his son by his second marriage, or that he should be cut off from the entail or the baronetcy. What would he do? He would take advantage of the loophole which the Bill provided, and which the promoters had perhaps unintentionally given him, get his marriage annulled and remarry, so that under the Bill his wife, so far as money and titles were concerned, should become his lawful wife. On the whole he thought he had demonstrated to the House valid reasons for postponing the operation of the Bill.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON thought there were very good reasons why the promoters could not accept the new clause. The only point raised was in regard to the annulment of marriages, and the hon. and learned Gentleman seemed to have been rather unfortunate in the instances which he had given, because they only showed the fallacy that ran through the whole of the argument against the Bill. It was said that there were cases in which a man had married his deceased wife's sister and the parties lived unhappily and agreed to separate. Such cases were rare and of course might happen, but there were other cases in which an ordinary marriage had taken place and the man and woman only lived together for a year and then separated. They did not, however, under those circumstances allow them to divorce each other. He did not think that they ought to accept the Amendment.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) spoke against the Amendment, and said it seemed to him that if a man had married his deceased wife's sister and had got tired of her and wanted to get rid of her in order to marry another woman, he was a man against whom the public should be protected, and he did not particularly wish to give a man of that sort any more time in which to marry a third person than could possibly be helped. It seemed to him from that point of view it would be a pity to postpone the operation of the Act, because by doing so they would put the ladies of the country in danger of being proposed to by that sort of man. Therefore, although he agreed with a good deal of what the noble Lord had said, he was unable to follow him on this particular point.

LORD R. CECIL said he did not agree with the observations of the last speaker, and he was amazed that the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had not accepted the new clause. If he had looked at the clauses of his own Bill, he would have seen the necessity of giving some opportunity to people to reconsider their position, and to pass it without some such proviso as this would really be the essence of bad legislation. There was clearly a case for giving time to those who had made these irregular marriages, to reconsider their position, not only from their own point of view but from that of their children, and enabling them to make some fresh arrangement. The first clause dealt with marriage only as a civil contract, and the ecclesiastical law was not altered by the measure, because it was provided that no clergyman in holy orders was to be bound to celebrate these marriages, which so far as he could make out, according to ecclesiastical law, were invalid. Therefore it seemed to him that if a clergyman, being subject to ecclesiastical as well as to civil law, were to celebrate one of these marriages he would be answerable to the ecclesiastical law and have to pay the penalty.

SIR W. ROBSON: No, no.

LORD R. CECIL said that was his reading of the canon law under which these marriages were good only as a civil contract, and which did not make them ecclesiastically good.

SIR W. ROBSON said that no canon law could subsist if it was contrary to a Statute passed by Parliament.

LORD R. CECIL agreed, but said the canon law did not deal with marriage as a civil contract, but as an ecclesiastical matter. They were only dealing under this Bill with marriage as a civil contract, and it would be a grave question for a clergyman whether he should treat people married in this way as being married at all under the ecclesiastical law.

SIR W. ROBSON said that any law passed by Parliament stood good in spite of anything there might be in ecclesiastical law. It was an Act passed by the State, and any action on the part of a clergyman or of an ecclesiastical authority in defiance of any Act of Parliament was punishable.

LORD R. CECIL said that, that being so, it was scandalous that a Bill of this kind should be drafted and brought forward by a private Member and not by the Government. There was not a single Member in the House who would read the clause in that sense, because it said that it was not altering the ecclesiastical, but the civil, law of marriage. He quite agreed that Parliament was able to alter the ecclesiastical law. Parliament could do anything, but if Parliament did not deal with the ecclesiastical law, it remained as it was, even although the civil law was changed. Under those circumstances, and in view of the importance of the questions raised, time should be given for the consideration of such matters before they asked the Crown to alter the ecclesiastical law of the country. He therefore thought the commencement of the operation of the Bill should be postponed until a later date than that on which the Royal Assent was given.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 39; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 222.)

AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fardell, Sir T. George
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Lundon, W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Nield, Herbert
Doherty, Philip
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquarson
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Laurence Hardy and Mr. Rawlinson.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bright, J. A.
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)

Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edmd's
Higham, John Sharp
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset, N
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncaster
Norton, Capt Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tynseide)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sutherland, J. E.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H (Somerset, E.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Eugene Wason.

And, it being after Five of the clock, further Proceedings on Consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, to be further considered upon Friday next.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at fourteen minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 10*th June,* 1907.

BARON HOOD.

Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Thursday last, that the right of the Baron Hood to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

VISCOUNT MIDLETON.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of William St. John Fremantle, Viscount Midleton in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Petition of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery by her agents, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, praying that substituted service of a copy of the Bill, together with notice of the Second Reading thereof, and all other notices or orders connected therewith may be made upon Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Company, at 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; Presented and read; and to be taken into consideration on Wednesday next.

Taff Vale Railway Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th of May and Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed for To-morrow.

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

South Eastern, and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill; Shanklin Gas Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

London and North Western Railway Bill.—Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition of the Middlesex County Council. Leave given to present the said Petition.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Committed.

Great Central Railway Bill.—Report of the Board of Trade; laid before the House (pursuant to Standing Order No. 90).

Destructive Insects and Pests Bill [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of county council of Haddington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL REGISTRATION BILL.

Further papers respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of 29th May last) and to be printed. (No. 65.)

at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Regulations for technical schools, schools of art, and other schools and classes (day and evening) for further education (from 1st August, 1907, to 31st July, 1906).

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Letters patent and instructions relating to the Orange River Colony.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3814. Sweden (Stockholm); No. 3815. Hayti.

VENTILATION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Second report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the ventilation of factories and workshops. Part I. Report. Part II. Appendix.

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Directory of industrial associations in the United Kingdom in 1907.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS FOUNDATION.

Statement of the estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers Foundation, for the year 1907–1908.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account of receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-Up Act, from 1st January to 31st December, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCANTILE MARINE—LOAD LINE.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the new official regulations permitting the deeper loading of British merchant vessels; to ask whether, on the ground of increased danger to life at sea, large bodies representing seafarers have strongly protested against these regulations; whether they apply to old as well as new vessels; when is it contemplated that a further revision of the regulations will take place; and to move for a Return showing the particular vessels more deeply immersed under the new regulations, giving in each case the extent of their deeper immersion, their type of build, and their age.

In the interests of the many seafarers who appeal to me in this matter I desire to bring to your Lordships' notice certain facts connected with the deeper loading of British ships, which, under the sanction of the President of the Board of Trade, is now permissible. The *Shipping Gazette* puts the position in a nutshell when it says:—

> "Failing to get the Germans to come up to our standard of safety we have gone down to their's."

And why? Our seamen's lives have been placed in greater danger because our shipowners complain of foreign competition. But are our seamen to be considered the legitimate prey of competition, and are their lives to be exposed to unnecessary and avoidable risks for the sake of making profits? There is but one answer. We should give to the British shipowner a far greater amount of encouragement and assistance than we do, but at the same time we must insist on preserving the safety, as far as is humanly possible, of the men who serve in his ships. The shipowner has his capital at stake, that is if he is not fully covered by insurance, which he generally is; but with the seaman it is his life we must consider.

I plead on behalf of British seamen because their own mouths are shut. Those who can best and most intelligently judge of the increased dangers which the Board of Trade compel them to run—namely, the captains and officers—dare not say a word, at the peril of losing the positions they hold. The Merchant Service Guild, their representative body, tell me of the indignation of all seamen at this new deeper loading; but, as in so many other things, the men themselves must remain silent and accept greater risk to their lives rather than lose their berths and suffer starvation.

With your Lordships' permission I will quote extracts from two letters, the sentiments in which, the Guild assure me, are held by practically all nautical men:—

> "This lifting of the load line will make a great difference to many ships, and I am afraid this present winter will tell its own tale, both as to loss of life and also vessels. The freeboard of the ship I have just left was decreased by six and a half inches, and she was a totally

different ship in a seaway from what she was on the voyage before with the same cargo, only this time we had more of it."

The chief officer of another large steamer writes as follows:—

> "This ship (an old one of the partial awning deck type) is put down seven inches more, which means 170 tons more cargo. She was wet before, but we call her the Submarine A1. now."

I am well aware that the new regulations were adopted upon the recommendation of Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, the Bureau Veritas, and the British Corporation for the Survey and Registry of Shipping, all of whom, it must be carefully remembered, are closely connected and mixed up with shipowners.

But when I asked in this House why His Majesty's Government had not taken the views of seafarers before effecting changes which so closely concerned their safety, I was told that they were not competent to give advice on the subject and therefore were not asked. I cannot imagine a more callous reply, especially as insult was added to injury by insinuating a want of ordinary intelligence on the part of those serving in the merchant service. I do not impute callousness to my noble friend who gave this reply, for he has no experience of that most valuable and intelligent class of our fellow-subjects, the captains and officers of the merchant service, but I can find no Parliamentary term strong enough to condemn those who inspired that reply. I would like to know who are more competent. It is all very well for experts ashore to indulge in intricate calculations and carry on experiments with a model ship and a tank; but who are the best judges of a ship in a seaway when her safety is really at stake, and who from practical experience must be the best judges of the many and various dangers which face our ships on the high seas? With the greatest respect I say it is not marine architects or engineers who can be the most competent judges of the behaviour of a ship at sea.

In the early part of the present year the President of the Board of Trade stated in the House of Commons that the statutory tables of free-board under which load-lines are assigned to vessels were so modified as to permit of the deeper loading in varying degrees, ranging from six to twelve inches, of certain classes of vessels of modern construction and approved strength, but the older vessels which did not come up to this standard were allowed no such deeper loading. I ask your Lordships to mark these words. Twelve inches is given as the greatest margin of deeper immersion, and we are told, in so many words, that the older vessels are not given this doubtful privilege. I have at times complained of the nature of the replies which we receive to questions raised in this House in regard to ships and seamen. I would ask how the President of the Board of Trade reconciles his maximum of twelve inches deeper immersion with the fact that it is by no means the maximum. Coupled with this I would ask how his statements as to the older vessels not being deeper loaded can be reconciled with the following statements written from abroad by an officer for public use in case his vessel never arrived home again—

> "I was much surprised, when reading the *Guild Gazette*, at the report of remarks made by Mr. Lloyd-George with reference to the new load-line for British vessels."

This officer, in commenting on the statement of the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons to which I have referred, says—

> "It may interest my colleagues and possibly Mr. Lloyd-George to know that this steamer is one of the oldest of our fleet. She is over sixteen years of age and her load-line has been raised fourteen inches, whilst the more modern vessels of the company have only suffered to the tune of six or seven inches."

The officer further states that he once experienced a full dead-weight cargo in the vessel when the original load-line was in vogue. In encountering some heavy weather on her voyage, it appears she was not an enviable ship by any means, and needed some very careful nursing. The officer remarks—

> "God help us if we are ever loaded to the draught permitted by the President of the Board of Trade and meet heavy weather before the greater part of her coal has been consumed."

The letter written by this officer is from a very distant port abroad, and he states that the vessel is now proceeding to Europe with a full dead-weight cargo, and that full advantage is to be taken of the alterations in the load-line, which the officer states has practically destroyed the great work of Samuel Plimsoll's life. He prays—and naturally so—for a fine weather passage, his shipmates sharing his doubts as to the consequences in the event of heavy weather.

My Lords, I have supplied you with actual facts which will show how different is the position from what we ourselves are led to believe. I have too much respect for the President of the Board of Trade to infer that he has the slightest intention to mislead, but I think that the information which is placed in his hands should more nearly approach the mark of accuracy. For my part, I feel bound, for the protection of the lives of our sailors, to revert to these matters and to endeavour to influence your Lordships to give your assistance in setting them right.

I ask your Lordships to bear in mind that seamen get no extra consideration for the additional risks they run, and it is to us that they look for protection. If we disregard their pleas, if we treat their safety as a quite unimportant matter compared to, for instance, the Street Betting Bill, or shorter hours for shop assistants, we take upon ourselves a most serious responsibility. Human life should be as sacred at sea as it is elsewhere. Though the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may consider otherwise, I venture to think that it is for us, with the powers at our disposal, to protest against the national scandal of lowering the standard of safety at sea to that of the alien competitor, whoever he may be. We, who take a pride in the greatest industry the world has ever seen—the British mercantile marine—should have a regard for its fair fame, and I would beg you not to remain impassive when its credit for safety and efficiency is at stake, as it is now.

Moved, "That there be laid before the House a Return showing the particular vessels more deeply immersed under the new official regulations, permitting the deeper loading of British merchant vessels, giving in each case the extent of their deeper immersion, their type of build, and their age."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, I agree with a great deal of what my noble friend has said as to the need for every precaution being taken to protect the lives of our seamen when at sea. We all recognise what they have done for the Empire, and would be very sorry to think that any regulation of the Board of Trade or of any public Department in this country had an injurious effect upon them. I can only say, with regard to the special subject under discussion, that the Board of Trade, in conjunction with the various bodies mentioned by the noble Lord, came to the conclusion that with safety the free-board of certain ships could be decreased. The noble Lord in referring to some remarks made in the House of Commons by Mr. Lloyd-George, said that my right hon. friend had stated that the present rules only applied to new ships. What Mr. Lloyd-George intimated was that the rules permitted of the deeper loading of new ships and of older vessels when they comply with the same regulations as to strength and other points.

With regard to the Return for which the noble Lord has moved, I very much fear that it will not be possible to grant it, simply on the ground of expense. If we had to go through the different assessments of load line for every single ship of the mercantile marine it would entail a very large expenditure, and I very much doubt whether the result attained would be of any use to your Lordships. There was one other question raised by the noble Lord with reference to the competency of captains and officers of the merchant service to give advice on questions of this kind; but from information at my disposal I am inclined to think this would not be the case. This subject is a very technical one, and one which I am informed can only be dealt with by naval architects and that class of people. It seems to me, therefore, that it would have been useless to ask any member of the Merchant Service Guild to have joined with the other experts in assessing the load-line. We all recognise that the subject is a very serious one, and all I can add is that if it is brought to our notice that any revision of the load-line is required, and that there are good reasons for it, we shall consider it; but at the present moment His Majesty's Government have no intention whatever of revising the load-line.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, the noble Earl has said very frankly that the subject of this conversation is a very serious one, and that undoubtedly is the case. Any proposed change, or any change which has been carried out, in regard to the load-line of our vessels, seeing that it involves the safety of a number of His Majesty's subjects, is, of course, a very important matter. The noble Earl stated, in reply to my noble friend, that he is not able to lay on the Table the Return asked for, and he added that he was unable to do so on the ground of expense. The noble Earl is the best judge of that, and I certainly should not attempt to controvert the opinion on which that answer is given; but I do think that your Lordships are entitled to a little more information as to the grounds upon which the change has been made to which my noble friend has called attention.

I apprehend that no Papers of any kind have been laid before Parliament with reference to this subject. Therefore we are not seised of the reasons which have led the Board of Trade, on the advice of those bodies to which reference has been made, to change the load-line conditions. I think we are entitled to have that information. We ought to be told why it is that suddenly the Board of Trade have been advised that, in cases of certain vessels, they may be immersed to the extent of a foot deeper than has hitherto been the case. I say so all the more emphatically because there appears to be a certain ambiguity as to what vessels this change applies to. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade seems to have said, in another place, that the only vessels affected are new vessels, or, at any rate, vessels of new construction; but it appears, from the modification the noble Earl has just made in his chief's assurance, that that was not strictly and rigidly accurate, and that there are a certain number of older vessels to which this new change will apply. That affords, perhaps, an additional ground why Parliament ought to be informed of the reasons which have led the Board of Trade to this decision. The question, therefore, which I would with great respect put to His Majesty's Government is whether they will lay Papers on the Table so that Parliament may be informed of the reasons which have led to this change.

My noble friend behind me indicated in one observation what he appears to think was the motive which led to the change. He hinted, apparently, that the change was made in order to meet the statutory provisions of the German law. I have no ground for agreeing with my noble friend in that suggestion, and I do not know what led him to make it; but it gives me an opportunity of asking the noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whom we are all glad to see in his place, whether any progress has been made in the negotiations for an international agreement as to load-line, which formed part of the discussions on the Merchant Shipping Bill in the last session of Parliament. My noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will remember that on that occasion both sides of the House were agreed that we could not pass a certain Amendment which was said to infringe International law, but my noble friend took the opportunity of saying that the Foreign Office were engaged in trying to persuade foreign Governments to agree to an international load-line, and he added that in the case of Germany, Norway, and Spain those negotiations seemed to be likely to be fruitful. I feel that I ought to have given my noble friend notice of this Question, and if he wishes it I will postpone the Question until another day.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I make no complaint of my noble friend for putting this Question, but I shall take advantage of what he has just said and ask him to give notice. There are a great number of delicate considerations involved in these negotiations, and I would be anxious that any Answer I gave should be accurate.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, I had not intended to address the House on this question, and I only do so in consequence of a remark which fell from the noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade as to architects and such persons being the only people capable of giving advice in this particular matter. I would point out that there are in the mercantile marine a large number of master mariners who have passed extra first, some of whom are perfectly capable of dealing with these highly technical subjects. I would, therefore, suggest that in future the aid of such men should be called in, and Committees and Commissions on these questions should not be left entirely to naval architects.

*LORD BRASSEY: My Lords, I would regret to say anything which might be considered to give approval to any course taken by the Board of Trade which implied an increase of risk to those whose employment is on the sea. But it may interest your Lordships to know that according to the latest information we seem to be steadily making progress in the diminution of loss of life at sea. In the first paragraph of the last issue of the Wreck Register it is stated that the total number of sea casualties reported in 1904–5 was less by 937 than the average for the previous twenty years, and less than in any of those years except three. In the return of loss of life by foundering, which is the matter particularly at issue with reference to the loadline, in the case of steam vessels the loss of life by foundering in 1902–3 was 113. The number fell in 1904–5 to twenty-three. In the latter period the loss of life by the foundering of sailing vessels was thirty-three as against fifty-six in 1902–3. That is very satisfactory as showing the results of close attention on the part of the Board of Trade in regard to all that has reference to safety of life at sea.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, after what the noble Earl has said I will not press my Motion; but I would ask him for a Return in the case of the "Manningtree." This ship took advantage of the new load-line and went to the bottom, and the Court found that she was not overloaded "according to the new regulations."

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: I can assure the noble Lord that we shall be very pleased indeed to give him a Return in the case of any particular ship. As regards what the noble Marquess opposite said, I will inquire whether it is possible to lay on the Table any Papers relating to the matter at issue.

On Question, Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Ellenborough.

THE TERRITORIAL FORCES.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS rose to call attention to the Answers given by the Under-Secretary for War to Questions addressed to him on Monday, 29th April last, regarding the "hoped for" "speculative" Territorial Army, and further, to give the Answers to the Questions to which the Under-Secretary failed to reply.

The noble Earl said: My Lords, the glamour of grandiloquence and miles of tall talk about national armies resting on patriotism and self-sacrifice seem to a certain extent to have mesmerised the common sense of the nation, assuming that the present majority in another place represents the common sense of the nation. The Bill which is described as a Bill for the reorganisation of the Army, would be more properly described as a Bill for the disorganisation of the Army. This guillotine Bill, which is passing through the House of Commons at a very rapid rate, empowers the Secretary of State for War to dynamite absolutely and blow into the thinnest air the foundation upon which our military system rests and has rested from all time, and to substitute for it a foundation resting on "hope" and "speculation"—to which Mr. Haldane has recently added a brick on which is stamped the word "optimism."

About five weeks ago I put a few Questions to my noble friend Lord Portsmouth with a view of gauging what the value would be of this new mongrel force. My noble friend responded, as I expected, with that courtesy which he shows to everyone; but, as regards the information which he gave me, I was in that state of beatitude that is supposed to attach to those who expect nothing. I expected nothing from my noble friend, and therefore I was in no way disappointed. But getting no information, I felt that it was necessary to give the further notice which stands in my name on the Paper to-day. Now, although my noble friend gave me no information, he met some of the Questions by a reference to the County Associations. I hope your Lordships will remark that. These County Associations, which are not yet formed, are apparently to be kopjes or shelter trenches to the Government, because when asked Questions as to what will be the effect of this or that, the Answer is, "We cannot tell; that will depend on what the County Associations do." On other points my noble friend referred me to the clauses of the Bill, but on the very important Question as to readiness he displayed a diplomatic silence and gave me no answer at all.

I do not propose to repeat the eight Questions which I put to my noble friend, but to summarise them, and I think he will admit that the summary which I shall submit is a truthful representation of those Questions. I will put them under four heads—First, the question of age; secondly, the question of training; thirdly, the fitness after training of the troops to do what is expected of them; and, lastly, the question of readiness. With regard to the question of age, my noble friend referred me, as I have said, to the County Associations; they were to be responsible for the age. I wanted to know how many of the 300,000 men would be left if you deducted all the lads under twenty, and my noble friend said I had taken a very high figure. I absolutely dispute that. This is no new question. It was discussed by the yard, by the mile if you choose, in 1871, on Mr. Cardwell's Bill, and again in 1875. In the latter year I moved a Resolution in the House of Commons, but the forms of the House did not allow of its being put to the vote, to this effect—

> "That no youth under twenty years of age should be reckoned an effective soldier and borne as such on the Army Estimates; and this House is further of opinion that the number of youths under twenty years of age enlisting and serving in each arm of the Service should be annually and separately stated in the Estimates."

In 1871, the House of Commons unanimously resolved that no youth under twenty should be allowed to serve over seas.

What did we hear from my noble friend the other day? He stated that with the help, not of their military advisers, but of their medical advisers, the Army Council were thinking of altering the age for Foreign Service. When I moved my Resolution in the House of Commons in 1875, I produced evidence from the medical officers at Netley that in their opinion youths under twenty years of age were fit for home duties only; and Sir William Ferguson, the distinguished surgeon of the day, when asked what was the right age, said he did not think there was much wrong in twenty-one. In this connection it must be remembered that there is no foreign nation which has a soldier under twenty years of age.

Now I want to get at the number of men who would be left if all under twenty were excluded. In 1875 the question was very narrowly gone into, with this result—that in a body of 50,000 men those under twenty numbered 12,000; what are called casualties would account for a further 7,000, which brings the total to 19,000; so that, of a force of 50,000 men, 19,000 were below twenty years of age or could not be counted. The Territorial Army is to consist of 300,000 men. Therefore if you multiply the figures I have given by six you arrive at this conclusion, that of the men in the Territorial Army 114,000 cannot be counted. Therefore you will have 186,000 men instead of 300,000. And what are these 186,000 men to do? They are to garrison all the ports of the United Kingdom that required to be garrisoned plus volunteer for service over sea, and defend our homes and country from foreign invaders. In his letter to Sir John Burgoyne the Duke of Wellington put the garrison at each of these places at 10,000, with the exception of Milford Haven, which would require 5,000. Including Cork, this takes away 65,000 men, leaving 121,000. The Duke of Wellington in the same letter stated that half of your force would have to go to Ireland. That would reduce the number to 60,500, and that would be the whole Territorial Force available for field-service in Great Britain.

Then, as to training, under Clauses 14 and 16 of the Government Bill, which, I believe, have not been altered in the House of Commons, the Territorial soldier may be drilled for one, two, three, or four weeks in the course of a month, as is thought desirable; but—and here comes the great blot on the Bill—a territorial soldier is not to be made really effective until the force is mobilised in case of an emergency arising. But the enemy will then be in this country. Does my noble friend delude himself into the belief that notice will be given, and that it will be treacherous on the part of any foreign country to come without giving due notice? I have in my hand an extract from a book that has recently been published, entitled "The Writing on the Wall," and in this book there is a quotation from Sir Frederick Maurice, who says that he only knows one case—in 1870—where overt war had been preceded by a declaration of war. Therefore, my noble friend's belief that due notice would be given falls to the ground.

Then as to the question of fitness. Who can say this new Army will be fit to meet a foreign army consisting of older and more fully trained men? Military authorities declare that every infantry soldier requires eighteen months training and every cavalry soldier two years, but this Territorial Army is to be trained after the enemy has landed on our shores, or, at any rate, after a declaration of war, if there is a declaration.

Then, when will this Army be ready? When I put this Question the other day my noble friend's reply was, on the one hand, that that would be a matter for the County Associations, and, on the other hand, that he could not diplomatically disclose, say, when the force would be ready; but there is no secret of any kind in the matter. Every foreign military attaché in London knows all about it. My noble friend shakes his head. I am sorry he is so incredulous.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): If the information is so publicly known why does the noble Earl wish us to give it?

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I am very sorry I did not hear the noble Earl's interruption. I understand my noble friend to suggest that I am wrong when I say that this is known to everybody except the English people. It is certainly known to all the foreign military attachés. That cannot be denied. It appears to me that on all grounds you will not have in this Territorial Army a satisfactory exchange for that which you are blowing up. The Secretary of State for War served on the Explosives Committee, and I suppose he learnt blowing up there; at any rate, he is applying dynamite to our present military system. The whole scheme rests entirely on hope, speculation, and optimism. I could quote no end of letters I have received on the subject, but I will confine myself to three military authorities. The first is Lord Roberts, who says that while the Army is forming we shall be in a state of extreme danger. Lord Wolseley telegraphed some time ago that he looked upon the Bill as an insane Bill, and more recently he writes—

> "At one time it was supposed that we were endowed with that uncommon attribute, common sense, but no man of any nation reading this proposed Army scheme would ever suppose that we could lay claim to that rarest of virtues. Mr. Haldane's proposals have nothing that can recommend them to any one who wishes England to provide itself with an Army suitable to our position at home, and our scattered Empire in many distant provinces. I hope I may not live long enough to see these Army reformers' proposals given any trial."

In that I myself most cordially concur. What was Lord Wolseley's view when he was examined before the Duke of Norfolk's Commission? Would he be satisfied with these half-trained men? No; he said he wanted 150,000 of our best troops for home defence. The other authority I will quote is also a very important one. The present military adviser of the Secretary of State is, I believe, General Lyttelton. General Lyttelton's successor in that very onerous and responsible post is to be Sir William Nicholson, who is admitted to be one of our ablest soldiers. Sir William Nicholson is quoted in the *Nation* as saying that Mr. Haldane's scheme of a Territorial Army is nothing but a dream and a vision. Unfortunately, Sir William will not take over the office until April next.

Now the question that occurs to me, seeing that the Bill is denounced by nearly all soldiers and all practical sensible men, is, what will your Lordships do with it when it comes up to this House? It will soon be here—by help of the guillotine. I venture to think that there is only one thing you can and ought to do with it—read it a second time, and then, in Committee, take the Militia out of the Bill. Do not, my Lords, forget what you did in 1904. Your Lordships in that year passed a Resolution, on my Motion, to the following effect—

> "That, in the opinion of this House, any scheme of Army reorganisation that does away with the Militia Force is contrary to sound policy, destroying as it does the ancient constitutional foundation of our military system."

And by whom was that Resolution supported? By Lord Spencer and by the whole of the occupants of the Front Bench opposite. It was carried unanimously. Lord Burghclere shakes his head. Does he object?

LORD BURGHCLERE: I was sitting with my noble friends on the Front Opposition Bench then, and I did not agree.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: But you did not object to the Motion being carried—it matters not where you sit. Therefore, I maintain that I am justified in saying that the Resolution was carried unanimously, and if your Lordships do not stand by that Resolution you will be stultifying yourselves and prove yourselves of no value as a Second Chamber and House of revision. By excluding the Militia from the Bill you will retain the old constitutional force and the power of imposing compulsory service for home defence, which is the foundation of our military system. After all, why do you not take what exists at this moment on the Table and which everyone of you knows to be right? There is, I am glad to see, one Member in another place who had the courage of his opinions and who spoke out like a man in favour of ballot for the Militia. I refer to Lord Morpeth. Why are there not more Lord Morpeths? I venture to think that in this matter one Party is afraid of the other, and the result is that the nation suffers; unquestionably that is so.

In my opinion we present a most pitiable and contemptible spectacle to foreign nations, every one of whose citizens have to serve in the national army. We are the only nation in the world that allows its military system to lie on the Table. All other nations enforce their military systems. The Pigmies, I am sure, enforce theirs. Lord Wolseley says he hopes he may not live long enough to see these army reformers' proposals given any trial. I also trust it will not be done in my time. Years ago the Duke of Cambridge said to me—

> "You are not talking so much about Army matters now. Why is that?"

I replied that I was waiting for the disaster, and I added—

> "After the disaster you will do these things, but at present you will not."

The outlook is very gloomy. But in the surrounding gloom there came a gleam of light and hope from the Front Opposition Bench when I ventured to bring this matter before your Lordships some five weeks ago. The noble Marquess Lord Salisbury then took a rational view on the subject of the Militia, which he did not wish to see done away with.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Hear, hear.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: The noble Marquess then said that the remarks he made were spoken in a patriotic sense, and he did not look upon this Bill in any other than a patriotic sense. Those remarks were responded to in the same spirit by the noble Earl who represents the War Office. Now words are all very well, but we want deeds, and I would suggest that the noble Marquess should make an advance to the Earl of Portsmouth with the view of treating the question on non-Party lines, and promising the support of his Party if the Government would bring in, in the most modified form possible, compulsion for home defence. One word in conclusion concerning myself. I am now a very old man. From 1871 onwards I have urged compulsory service for home defence. If the Volunteers would only do what I did, temporarily resign their commissions, the Government Bill would fall to the ground, and Ministers would be obliged to do their duty alike by the nation and themselves. My warnings on this subject come from the bottom of my heart. I know that my words are true, and I know that all who hear me must, in their inner consciences, acknowledge their truth. I thank your Lordships for allowing me to give utterance to them, even if they are the last words I am ever to speak in your Lordships' House.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: My Lords, I am sure one thing will be felt by every Member of your Lordships' House, and that is that it was necessary for the noble Earl to inform us that he is a very old man, for he addressed us with his usual youthful vigour and eloquence. I am, however, placed in a difficulty by the time and the occasion chosen by my noble friend for bringing forward this matter.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I postponed it at your request.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I did not ask my noble friend to postpone it till now.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: You asked me to postpone it till after Whitsuntide

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I think it would be more in order to debate this matter when the Bill to which the noble Earl referred comes before us. It is impossible for me to go into this matter in detail at present; but I hope to be associated with the Bill when it comes up to this House, and I will then endeavour to explain it in every detail, and I assure your Lordships that it is my intention to consider it in an absolutely non-Party sense.

My noble friend has not done what his notice of Motion suggested that it was his intention to do. I doubted on seeing his Motion whether I would have to trouble your Lordships with a speech because it indicated that my noble friend was prepared to answer the questions which he had not considered as satisfactorily answered on a previous occasion. His notice has suggested to my noble friend near him this quotation—

"As I walked by myself, I talked to myself
And myself replied unto me.
The questions myself then put to myself,
With their answers, I send them to thee.
Put them to thyself, and if unto thyself
The answers the same they be,
Think well with thyself and beware of thyself,
Or so much the worse for thee."

Much of the detail on which my noble friend commented is intentionally left out of the Bill because it was felt that it was better to leave it to be worked out in administration under the best advice of the Army Council. Much has been said about training, and I agree as to its importance, but it is undesirable, as has been shown by experience, to put into a Bill dealing with a Volunteer army—I will not consider compulsory service now, it is not within the region of practical politics—it is not desirable to put into such a Bill a hard-and-fast rule as to training; there must be an elastic system. Your Lordships will remember what happened in 1902 in regard to a proposal for compulsory camps. It would be unwise for Parliament to go into such details. I adhere to the view I expressed in regard to the proposed six months training when war was imminent, and it is a view that is shared by distinguished authorities. It is inconceivable that a civilised Power would attack another at a time when the relations between them were perfectly friendly; I do not think that we could provide against contingencies of that kind. I have been asked, "Do we expect that the Territorial Force will be fit to meet picked Continental troops?" and I reply, "No, we do not expect that; we rely on the Navy as the first line of defence, and we look to the Territorial Army to protect the country against raids. When it is said that if we lose command of the sea the country might be inundated with Continental troops, all I can say is that, if we lose command of the sea, it is hardly necessary to consider the further question, for an ememy would have the means of bringing us to terms.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: The House has unanimously passed a Resolution declaring that, irrespective of the Navy, it is desirable that the country should at all times be in such a state of defence on land that no nation would ever dream of making in any form a hostile landing on our shores.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I am expressing the deliberate opinion of the Committee of Imperial Defence—a skilled and expert opinion—that it is impossible to consider the question of defence apart from the Navy.

EARL BATHURST: In what way does the noble Earl consider the proposed Territorial Army will be superior to our means of defence by the Militia and Volunteers.

The Earl of PORTSMOUTH: A reply to that question would involve a Second Reading speech, and it had better be reserved for the discussion upon the Bill.

*The Earl of WEMYSS: I forgot to mention what could be done under the existing law. I sent round a circular which every one of your Lordships received, and which I should like to have added as a footnote to what I have said. It was to this effect, that without an additional 1d. cost, you could have an efficient force of 1,250,000 men, exclusive of Regulars. I wish to give notice that if and when the Bill comes before the House, and I being then alive, I will without comment move an instruction to the Committee that it is desirable to alter the Bill in accordance with the Resolution I have referred to, and that the Militia should be maintained.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 10th June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Wisbech Water Bill [Lords]; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords] (by Order) (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments.

Clyde Navigation Provisional Order Confirmation Bill.—Consideration deferred till To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (by Order).—As amended considered; to be read the third time To-morrow.

Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—" To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Caledonian Railway," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Tuesday 18th June, and to be printed. [Bill 224.]

Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade, under The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable to the New Junction Canal of the Undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation." [Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the councils of the administrative county of Surrey and the county boroughs of Birkenhead and Southport to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [Lords.]

Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords]. —Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 227.]

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 228.]

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill (by Order).—Lords' Amendments considered—

Lords' Amendment, in page 1, line 3 leave out "in this Act called 'the Council'" read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendment, in page 2, line 7, leave out "water," the next Amendment read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Mooney*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

PETITION.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petition from Earlestown, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (POWERS IN IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th May; *Captain Craig*]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Regulations for Technical Schools, Schools of Art, and other Schools and Classes for further Education (from 1st August, 1907, to 31st July, 1908) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from 1st January to 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 183.]

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 184.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3816 to 3820 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

Copy presented, of the Convention of Rome, dated 26th May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

List of Public Elementary Schools—Details of Accomodation.

MR. HARVEY (Rochdale): To ask the President of the Board of Education if, prior to the next issue of the list of public elementary schools, he will take steps to secure the publication of revised and corrected figures of accommodation by eliminating from the measurements of floor space upon which accommodation is based such portions of the school buildings as are not available for effective teaching, and by taking into consideration the existence of a proper number of class-rooms.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The figures of accommodation appearing in the list of public elementary schools represent the accommodation recognised by the Board, and do not in every case coincide with the accommodation available for effective teaching. I fear the burden on the ratepayers that would be caused by the condemnation of schools and class-rooms which ought not properly to be regarded as suitable for effective teaching renders such an immediate step impossible. The Board are endeavouring to secure in all schools that not less than ten square feet of floor space shall be provided for each child, and to remove from the list unsuitable schools and class-rooms where alternative accommodation is available or, failing this, so soon as it can be secured. The difficulty of carrying out these necessary reforms with geater rapidity lies solely in the reluctance on the part of many local education authorities to provide the accommodation required for the children displaced.

The "Forest Hall"—Pilot's Remuneration.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is now in a position to say what steps have been taken to secure remuneration for James Galvin for his services in saving the vessel which, but for his help, would have been wrecked on the coast of Kerry, near Ballinskelligs Bay.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade have obtained a statement regarding this matter from the master of the "Forest Hall," who denies that the vessel was in distress, and states that he merely asked Galvin to show him the anchorage in Ballinskelligs Bay, and promised to pay him the usual pilotage fees in and out, amounting to £5. The matter is one for decision by the Courts, and is not one in regard to which the Board of Trade have any power to intervene.

Vaccination Prosecutions by Guardians.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he is aware that, by general orders of 31st October, 1874, the Local Government Board prescribed it as the duty of the guardians of the poor to give directions to their vaccination officers to take proceedings in cases in which the proceedings of the Vaccination Act of 1867 had not been complied with, and that in July, 1875, the Local Government Board obtained a mandamus to compel the guardians of the Keighley union to give directions to their vaccination officer; and that in consequence of their default the guardians of that union suffered imprisonment; whether, seeing that Lord Herschell's Commission on Vaccination reported in 1896 that it is the duty of the guardians to put the law in regard to vaccination in operation, he will say whether the powers and duties of guardians in regard to such prosecutions under Sections 29 and 31 of the Act of 1867 have since been altered by statute; and, if not, whether the powers of the guardians in directing their officers in instituting proceedings under the Vaccination Acts are the same now as they were held to be in 1875 and in 1896.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of the facts referred to in the Question. Some limitations were placed by Sections 2, 3 and 4 of The Vaccination Act, 1898, on the cases in which prosecutions could be instituted under Sections 29 and 31 of The Vaccination Act, 1867, but, subject to this, there has been no statutory provision since 1896 which would affect the powers and duties of guardians in regard to prosecutions under those sections. Since that date, however, the Courts of Law have decided that it is the duty of the vaccination officer to institute these prosecutions without any directions from the guardians. When in 1898 the Order of 1874 mentioned by my hon. friend was rescinded, the provision which it contained as to directions by the guardians in cases of this kind was not inserted in the Order which took its place. That Order provided, however, that the guardians should from time to time ascertain whether the vaccination officer was performing the duties imposed on him by the Vaccination Acts of enforcing the provisions of those Acts and the duties imposed on him by the Order, and should require the due performance by him of such duties.

Enniskillen Post Office Staff.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can now state the result of the surveyor's inquiries at Enniskillen on the questions of bad duties, caused by an undue proportion of female labour, and the matter of supervision at that office, no information having yet been received by the staff as to the result of that inquiry.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) A revision of the indoor force at Enniskillen is about to be submitted to the Treasury for authority.

Artillery for Indian Army.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the fact that the Indian Army is unprovided with horse or field artillery other than mountain batteries, it is contemplated, in the event of war, that the Indian Army should take the field without horse or field artillery; and, if not, what is the number of regular batteries which will be required, and from what source they will be provided.

(*Answered by Mr. Hobhouse.*) Except in expeditions of very small importance the Indian Army never takes the field without British troops. The Secretary of State has already informed the House that there are eleven batteries of horse artillery and forty-five batteries of field artillery now in India.

Territorial Force—Men required in Civil Positions in the event of War.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the announcement that no man shall be recruited for the territorial force who cannot accept a liability to a six months embodiment on the Army Reserve being called out, he proposes to disband or reduce such corps as the Civil Service, the Post Office, the Elswick, the Woolwich, the Dockyard, and the Railway Volunteers; and whether he proposes to discharge from other battalions all Volunteers who from being in the Government service or from the nature of their employment are unable to comply with such requirement.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I have never stated that any particular Volunteer units will be disbanded or reduced, or that any individual now serving must be discharged if the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill becomes Law. What I did say, and what I now repeat, is that the Government does not intend to spend money in paying, clothing, and training men who, owing to the nature of their civil employment, cannot in any circumstances be embodied for military service in the event of national emergency. Seeing that the liability of Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers to be embodied will be the same in the future as in the past, I presume that Government departments and private employers have already faced the contingency of those in their employment who are now serving in these forces being called out on mobilisation, and I do not therefore anticipate that any serious consequences will follow if this Bill becomes law.

Sewage Disposal—Government Bill.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) As I stated on Friday last, in answer to a Question by the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division, I cannot hold out any expectation that I could introduce a Bill on this subject during the present session.

Motor Omnibuses.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been directed to the loss and inconvenience which has been sustained on omnibus routes in Paddington through the traffic of improperly constructed vehicles; and if he can give any assurance that more stringent regulations for motor omnibuses will be enforced in respect of such points as noise, vibration, and emission of vapour.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The regulations under which motor omnibuses are licensed were considered and approved by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and are being strictly enforced. Unduly noisy omnibuses are warned off the streets. In some places, the state of the roadway is responsible for most of the vibration and for some of the noise of these vehicles. At the same time every effort is constantly being made to improve matters, and in the opinion of the Commissioner of Police a marked improvement has been effected.

German Shipbuilding Programme.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty to what year's programme the German armoured cruisers "Gneisenau," "Scharnhorst," "Roon," and "Yorck," belong; on what dates they were laid down; on what dates they were completed; and what time was occupied in building them.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The information desired is as follows—

Ship.	Programme.	Date laid down.	Date completed.	Time occupied in building.	
				Yrs.	Months.
Gneisenau -	1904–5	June 1904 (Launched 14th June 1906)	Not yet completed.		—
Scharnhorst -	1905–6	May 1905 (Launched 22nd March 1906)	"		—
Roon - -	1902–3	1st August 1902	October 1905	3	2
Yorck - -	1903–4	25th April 1903	November 1905	2	7

British Shipbuilding.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty to what year's programme the armoured cruisers "Minotaur," "Shannon," "Defence," "Achilles," "Cochrane," "Natal," and "Warrior" belong; on what dates they were laid down; on what dates they were or will be completed; and what time was occupied in building them.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson*) The information desired is as follows—.

Ship.	Programme.	Date laid down.	Date completed.	Time occupied in building.	
				Yrs.	Months.
Minotaur - -	1904–5	2nd Jan. 1905	February 1908†	3	1‡
Shannon - -	"	2nd Jan. 1905	February 1908†	3	1‡
Defence - -	"	22nd Feb. 1905	December 1908†	3	10‡
Achilles - -	1903–4	22nd Feb. 1904	March 1907	3	1
Cochrane - -	"	24th March 1904	February 1907	2	11
Natal - -	"	6th Jan. 1904	April 1907	3	3
Warrior - -	"	5th Nov. 1903	May 1907	3	6

† Anticipated dates of completion.

‡ Estimated.

Naval Lands (Volunteers) Bill—Date of Second Reading.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can hold out any hope that the Second Reading of the Naval Lands (Volunteers) Bill will be taken at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) This Bill was originally promoted by the late Government, and was reintroduced last session and again this session. On the understanding that no prolonged discussion will be considered necessary, I have hopes of being able to persuade the Patronage Secretary to give it an early place.

Renewal of Free Kits to Naval Volunteer Reserves.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the question of renewal of free kits to Naval Volunteer Reserves has been under discussion at the Admiralty for over two years; and whether, in view of the prejudicial effect that the uncertainty on this subject is having upon the recruiting of the Volunteer force, he can now state if any definite decision has been arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I am informed that this question was raised about two years ago, but that no decision was then reached. The present Board has not hitherto been able to see its way to a definite decision, but the matter will not be lost sight of.

Electric Generating Station at Millbank.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): To ask the First Commissioner of Works what steps he proposes to take to secure that the new electric generating station near the Houses of Parliament and the British Art Gallery shall be constructed and worked so as to obviate injury to the fabrics of these public buildings, the art treasures therein, and the vegetation in the Victoria Tower Gardens which are about to be extended at great cost close up to the new station site.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) I shall do my utmost to obtain the insertion of protective provisions at a later stage of a Bill now before this House. With the opinions of Professor Church and Dr. Thorpe before me, and the knowledge lately acquired of what is happening elsewhere, I take a most serious view of the national risk which is being incurred in this matter unless precautions are adopted, according to my recommendations, to protect the Houses of Parliament, the adjoining grounds and the British Art Gallery. I hope I shall have public support in my action.

Stamp Duty on Workmen's Compensation Insurance Policies.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the number of policies likely to be effected in view of the coming into operation of The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and to the hardship of the imposition by law of a stamp of sixpence upon each such policy, he will, in the interests of insurers with small means, consider the advisability of providing that, as in the case of insurances against fire, a stamp of one penny shall cover policies effected against the liability cast upon all classes of employers under the Act of 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) As I explained in reply to a Question asked by the noble Lord on the 22nd April, all policies of indemnity against accidents on which the annual premium does not exceed £1 are, under Section 11 of the Finance Act, 1899, treated as policies of insurance against accidents and attract a duty of no more than 1d. This would seem to be sufficient to meet the case of "insurers with small means," regard being had to the rates of premium usually charged upon such policies, except perhaps in some particularly dangerous trades. The question whether, in view of recent legislation, there is a case for the further extension of the concession is, as I have already stated, engaging my attention.

Transfer of Portions of the Madras Railway.

SIR LEWIS McIVER (Edinburgh, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the proposal to transfer portions of the property of the Madras Railway to another company or line, which was recently intimated to the Madras Railway Company, has been finally and irrevocably decided on, or whether facilities will be given to the proprietors of the Madras Railway Company and the people of Madras to make representations to the Government before the matter is finally decided on.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The transfer of the Madras Railway from the present company has been finally decided on, with a view to a rearrangement of the railways in Southern India, which was considered by the Government of India and the Railway Board to be imperative on administrative grounds. Subject to the settlement of satisfactory conditions, the Southern Mahratta, South Indian, and Great Indian Peninsula Railway Companies have provsionally accepted the offers which have been made to them to include in their systems portion of the present Madras Railway.

Indian Army Artillery.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: To ask the Secretary of State for India at what dates eleven batteries of horse artillery and forty-five batteries of field artillery were added to the Indian Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have not stated that there has been an addition of eleven batteries of horse artillery and forty-five batteries of field artillery. The above number of horse artillery batteries have been on the establishment of the Army in India since 1885 and of field artillery batteries since April, 1902.

Exceptional Payment of Residual Capitation Grant.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the residual capitation grant for the year ended 31st March, 1907, has not been paid to the acting principal teacher, Miss Quinn, of Ballagh School, Roll No. 5,811, Circuit No. 12, county of Roscommon; that this school remained during the term mentioned in communication with the National Board; that the grant was earned; whether the technical application of Rule No. 111, not designed to meet a case of this description, will be held to deprive the teacher of the school of a grant which she earned; and, if so held, to whom will the grant be paid, or must it be forfeited by those interested in that school.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) In ordinary circumstances the teacher referred to would not be entitled to the residual captitation grant, but, having regard to the unusually long period, nearly a year, during which she acted as principal teacher, the Commissioners have decided to make the grant to her as an entirely exceptional case.

Irish Railways.

MR. HAYDEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if during the Chief Secretaryship of Mr. Gerald Balfour, and at the request of the Government, a report on the Irish railways was made by the late Mr. Robertson, the then Chairman of the Board of Works in Ireland; whether this Report favoured the idea of State purchase of all the Irish railways; whether it is still in existence and in possession of the Government or any of its departments; and, if so, whether it will be submitted with any other official Reports made on the same subject to the Viceregal Commission now considering the Irish railway problem.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no information that any Report of the nature referred to was ever made by Mr. Robertson. There is no record of such a Report either in the Chief Secretary's Office, or in that of the Board of Works.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Application of Michael O'Connor.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application on reinstatement from Michael O'Connor for a farm of land from which he was evicted, on the Crofton estate at Mohill, county Leitrim; and, if so, will the same be investigated by an inspector.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have had Michael

O'Connor's application investigated by an inspector. The holding from which O'Connor was evicted does not appear to be one to which the Land Law Acts apply, and the Commissioners can, therefore, take no action in the matter.

Purchase of the Estate of Major St. George French.

Mr. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board have purchased the estate of Major St. George French, Clooniquinn, county Roscommon; whether the property in question includes the Clooniquinn Farm, which is now in the possession of a non-resident grazier; and whether the Board propose in the near future to use their powers and allot it in sections to the holders of uneconomic holdings in the immediate neighbourhood.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board have purchased this estate. It is assumed that the grazing farm referred to in the Question is the non-residential farm which is held by Mr. Timothy Rourke, junior, under lease for thirty-one years from 1902. The Board have no power under the existing law to determine the tenure in this case.

The Sarah Flannery Estate—Case of James Farrell.

Mr. JAMES O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Sarah Flannery Estate, near Strokestown, county Roscommon, has been purchased by the Estates Commissioners and resold to the tenants, and that an exception has been made in the case of one of the tenants, named James Farrell, on the grounds that he had not paid his interest in time; and whether, seeing that Farrell has since offered to pay up all arrears and is now willing to do so, he will, under the circumstances, instruct the Commissioners to give this tenant the full benefit of the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, since I answered the hon. Member's previous Question on this subject on 25th February,† they have received no application in the matter either from Farrell or the landlord. If such an application should be made to them they will give it due consideration

Irish Land Purchase—Case of O'Leary v. Sherlock.

Mr. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of O'Leary *v.* Sherlock; whether he is aware that the Sub-Commissioners, on the application of O'Leary, who was then under notice to quit, fixed a fair rent on his holding; that Chief-Commissioner Fitzgerald, on appeal of Mr. Sherlock, the landlord, reversed the decision of the Sub-Commissioners; and that the Lord Chief Baron and Lords Justices Holmes and Fitzgibbon, on appeal by the tenant, unanimously decided in favour of the Sub-Commissioners and set aside the ruling of Chief-Commissioner Fitzgerald; and whether, in view of the fact that many of the poorer tenants in Ireland are deprived of their rights under the Land Acts, being unable to face the expenses of vexatious appeals, some method less costly than the present will be provided to enable them to secure these advantages.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that the facts are substantially as stated in the Question. The Court of Appeal ordered the landlord to pay the tenant's costs of the appeal. The decisions of the Land Commission Court under the Land Law Acts are, like the decisions of the ordinary superior courts, subject to appeal to the Court of Appeal. The Land Commission decide several thousand fair rent cases annually and very few of these cases are taken to the Court of Appeal. I am informed that the system works satisfactorily. It seems desirable that, in land cases as in other cases, questions of law should in the last resort be subject to review by the highest authority.

Belfast Dock Strike Disturbance.

Mr. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a disturbance in the streets of Belfast on 31st May, when a labourer named Bamber, who had been imported to take the place of the dock labourers at present on strike and who was under the influence of drink, has been charged with cutting and wounding a man named Brown; and whether he will take such steps as will prevent a repetition of such an occurrence during the present dispute.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1239.

MR. C. DUNCAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the arrest of a man named Larkin, in Belfast, on 31st May, and his detention for a period of six hours before any charge was preferred against him; whether he is aware that Larkin is now charged with stone-throwing, after having himself been slashed with a knife by the imported labourer, Bamber; and whether he will take steps to prevent the arrest of persons in the future unless some definite charge is preferred against them at the time of their arrest.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) On 31st May Richard Bamber, who is an imported labourer, was arrested upon the charge of stabbing John Brown and two other men; and on the same occasion James Larkin, who belongs to the National Union of Dock Labourers, was arrested for assaulting Bamber by wounding him on the head with a stone. Larkin was charged with assault at the time he was arrested, but the charge was not formally entered until some hours later in the day. Bamber's injuries were at first believed to be more serious than proved to be the case, and until he had been treated at hospital it was not known whether a more serious charge might have to be preferred against Larkin. Both of the defendants were remanded and the cases were to be heard to-day. The police are taking all possible measures to preserve the peace.

Driving of Cattle off Irish Grazing Lands.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under what provision of the law are proceedings taken against persons who are found driving off cattle from the land of graziers; and, when the offence is proved, what punishment can be awarded.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) In some cases prosecutions have been instituted for the indictable offence of unlawful assembly, and in others of a less serious nature, proceedings have been taken to require persons to find sureties to keep the peace and be of good behaviour. The punishment to be imposed for unlawful assembly rests with the courts which deal with the case.

Position of Surveyors of the Staff for Engineer Service.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the question of improving the position of the surveyors and assistant surveyors of the staff for engineer services, which was stated as long ago as on the 27th March to be still under consideration, has now been sufficiently considered; and whether, in view of the anxiety which is felt on the subject, he will now announce his decision.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Steady progress has been made in regard to this matter, but no final decision has yet been reached.

Return of Crown Agents' Business.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Return of Crown Agents' Business, ordered 13th March, will be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Return has now been laid, and will be published to-morrow.

Grant of Land to Mr. R. B. Cole in British East Africa.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether grants of land in British East Africa are usually limited to 10,000 acres; whether this principle has been adopted in order to discourage large speculations in that region; and, if so, whether he can state the grounds upon which the principle has been departed from in the case of the grant of

100 square miles of this territory to Mr. R. B. Cole.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. With regard to Mr. Cole's land, the Director of Agriculture reported that it was useless for agricultural purposes. The only purpose for which it appeared capable of being utilised was the collection of the wild fibre growing upon it; and, as the fibre requires expensive machinery for its treatment, it was thought necessary to grant leases of large areas in order to induce persons to embark the necessary capital.

Birr Postmastership.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the date of the Civil Service certificate of the recently appointed postmaster at Birr, and the date of such certificates of the senior Irish overseer applicant, and of the senior applying from the rank of post office official for the Birr postmastership.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I regret that I can add nothing to the Answers on this subject I have already given to the hon. Member.

Appointment of Assistant Teacher to Broughton National School, Hants.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the managers of the Broughton national school, Hants, have appointed as assistant teacher in that school a young man possessing no recognised educational qualifications or school experience, and formerly employed as gardener, groom, and general helper to week-end visitors; and whether he can inquire into the circumstances of this case and will take the necessary steps to prevent the appointment and employment of unqualified persons as teachers in schools maintained out of public funds.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I will make inquiries as to the sufficiency and efficiency of the staff employed at this school.

Support of Relatives.

MR. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation for the purpose of empowering magistrates to sentence to imprisonment with hard labour persons who, being able to contribute, fail, on a second appearance, to comply with a magisterial order to contribute towards the support of relatives who are chargeable to the common fund of a union.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received representations from several boards of guardians in favour of an alteration of the law in the sense mentioned in the Question. The Royal Commission on the Poor Law have before them the subject of the contributions which should be made by persons for the support of their relatives, and I will bring under their notice the representations I have received. I do not think that legislation should be proposed on the subject pending their Report.

Manufacture of Cordite by Kynoch, Ltd.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to the evidence in the appeal trial of Kynoch, Limited, tendered by the manager of the Arklow factory, on 24th April; and what action he proposes to take in view of the fact that it is now established that Kynoch, Limited, have added mercuric chloride to cordite as well as mining explosives.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) I do not think the case is one in which I can properly take any action.

Census of Production Office.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the three chief staff officers and the three staff officers (first class) in the Census of Production Office were in his Department previous to the establishment of the Census of Production Office; if they were not, which Department were they transferred from; and what were their positions previous to the transfer.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The hon. Member is, I think, under a misapprehension. The three chief staff officers and three staff officers of the first class mentioned in the Estimates for 1907–8, page 121, to whom I assume that reference is made, are not employed in the office of the Census of Production, but in other branches of the Commercial, Labour, and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade.

South Eastern and Chatham Railway—Local Service between City and Spa Road and Southwark Park.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Rotherhithe): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the action of the South Eastern Railway in reducing, since 1st May, the number of trains leaving Charing Cross and Cannon Street Stations between the hours of five and nine in the evening, and stopping at the Spa Road Station from fifteen to eight trains, at Southwark Park Station from twenty-two to eight, and at the Deptford Station from eleven to eight; whether he is aware that while the number of trains stopping at these stations after 5 p.m. have been reduced the number of trains leaving these stations for the City and West End before nine in the morning have been increased; whether he is aware the facilities for travelling by tramway or omnibus have not increased, but are the same as have been in existence for twenty years, and that owing to reducing the trains in the evening the trains are overcrowded, and inconvenience experienced by the travelling public in the parts of Bermondsey and Deptford served by this railway; and whether he will authorise an inquiry by the Railway Commissioners into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have invited the observations of the managing committee of the railway upon the points raised by my hon. friend, and will communicate with him upon receipt of the committee's reply.

Engines for Salmon Fisheries.

MR. HAY MORGAN (Cornwall, Truro): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that a Special Commission was appointed in 1866 of a judicial character to inquiry into the various fixed engines used in the capture of salmon in the English and Welsh rivers, and into the right of the owners of the fisheries to use the same, and that the said Commissioners held several inquiries for such purposes relating to the River Wye, in the counties of Hereford, Gloucester, and Monmouth; and will he say whether any record is in existence of the claims made by the owners of the fisheries on the River Wye to use such engines, and of the judgments arrived at by the Commission; and, if the record is in existence, whether he will grant facilities for persons interested to inspect and take copies of such record.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Answer to the first part of my hon. friend's Question is in the affirmative. He will probably find the information he requires in a Return (No. 369 of 1872) to an Order of the House of Commons dated 18th March 1872, which contains particulars of all inquiries held by the Commissioners up to the date of the Order and includes certain cases of fisheries in the Wye.

Income-Tax on Pensions.

MR. L. HASLAM: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether, in the new regulations with regard to income-tax, pensions will be assessed as earned or unearned incomes.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The question is receiving careful consideration, and I shall be prepared to make a further statement upon it when the clause embodying the definition of "earned income" comes under discussion in Committee.

Irish Land Legislation.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the losses disclosed in the working of the Irish Land Act of 1903, and the failure of that Act to distribute the untenanted tracts among people in need, he can now see his way to allay discontent and promote forbearance during the coming months by undertaking that the Land Bill to be introduced by Government next session will restore inspection in every case of sale, and will deal with untenanted land throughout Ireland and not in particular parts only.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer to my Answer to the Question relating to Irish land legislation which was put by the hon. Member for Waterford on the 5th instant.† It would not be possible at present to indicate the lines upon which amending legislation in respect of Irish land may be introduced by the Government next session.

Application for Labourer's Cottage in Ireland.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say, when the representation of a labourer for a cottage and plot of land is made and the representation rejected by the district councillors of the district on the ground that the cottage is applied for on demesne land, and without giving the labourer an opportunity of being heard to prove that the land is not demesne, what is the proper course to adopt so that his representation may be fully considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The rural district council are not bound by the suggestion contained in the representation as to the site to be taken for any cottage. The selection of the site is entirely in the hands of the district council, and if they do not approve of the particular site suggested by the labourer he is not entitled to insist upon his suggestion being reconsidered by them.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Admiralty Purchase.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether cables, chains, furniture, or any of the many other articles required by the Admiralty can be obtained from abroad if they are found to be cheaper than those made in Great Britain or Ireland.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Chain cables and anchors are made under Admiralty supervision and are never obtained from abroad. As I have already explained in reply to previous questions, special care is taken to obtain supplies within the United Kingdom of all articles of primary importance for war. It is the practice of the Admiralty to buy only from the manufacturer, and, where ample competition is obtainable in this country, I see no reason to believe that articles of similar quality could be obtained more cheaply from abroad; but foreign competition is in some cases the only weapon against rings or other combinations among the producers in this country. If the hon. Member will only wait the issue of the Return of articles purchased abroad, for which the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield will move on the 20th instant, he will see exactly what articles have been purchased abroad during the first year for which the present Administration were solely responsible.

MR. HUNT: Are or are not any of these articles purchased abroad?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer will be found in the Return.

MR. HUNT: Why can I never get a straight Answer?

Saltburn Firing Accident.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty have yet decided on the compensation to be granted to a young girl who lives with her widowed mother at Saltburn, Ross-shire, and was seriously injured last summer by gunners from H.M.S. "Cæsar" during gun practice, and who, although now discharged from hospital, is unable to get about except on crutches.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I am very sorry this accident occurred. The expenses for medical attendance prior to the admission of this child to Dingwall Infirmary have been paid from public funds. I am informed that no communication on the girl's behalf has yet been received in the Admiralty, but when it is received it will be taken into consideration.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 692.

Defective Cartridges.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to cases that have occurred within the last few days of cartridges bursting in the rifle at Enfield; will he state the number of such cases, and say whether these cartridges were the new Mark VI.; and what steps have been taken to put this matter right.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): My attention has been called to these cases, of which there were sixty-four in the last three months at Enfield. The ammunition was in one case, made by a private firm, Mark VI., and in the other cases was specially made in Ordnance Factories to give 1,960 f.s. velocity for proof of rifles—being in other respects similar to Mark VI. The matter is under consideration, and in the meantime another batch of ammunition is being used.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Is any mercuric chloride used in these cartridges?

MR. HALDANE was understood to reply in the negative.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can furnish any information regarding the defects in Mark VI. or other regulation ammunition; how many cases there have been during the last three months of cartridges bursting in the barrel; how many cases of blow backs; how many accidents have occurred; to what cause are these accidents attributed; and have all these defective cartridges been called in with a view to preventing further mishaps.

MR. HALDANE: The investigation of defects recently found in the ammunition at Enfield is not yet completed. The number of cases of cartridges bursting in the barrel amounted to sixty-four at Enfield, and five at Woolwich. There were also four cases with service ammunition at out-stations, but full particulars are not yet to hand. A blow back is an escape of gas round the cap, and unless serious is not reported. As regards accidents, two men have been slightly injured by escaping gas at Enfield, and in two of the four cases at out-stations injuries were caused to two men. The use of any cartridges known to be defective will be stopped.

Ballykinlar Camp Road Traffic.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any financial contribution has been made by the War Office since the establishment of the camp at Ballykinlar, county Down, towards repairs to the road between Tullymurry Station and the camp, rendered necessary by the damage occasioned by heavy military traffic; and, if not, whether he will authorise a grant in aid of the local rates for this purpose.

MR. HALDANE: No grant has been made for this purpose, but a proposal to make a grant towards the cost of improving the road is under consideration. The usual contribution in lieu of rates, including road expenses, is made by the Treasury.

Walking Out Uniforms.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the walking-out uniforms, which it has been decided to issue to the territorial soldier at the public cost, will preserve any national or special characteristics or distinctions which they have at present.

MR. HALDANE: No decision has been reached in regard to the uniform.

MR. ASHLEY: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman say whether a corps such as the London Scottish will retain its national characteristics in its dress?

MR. HALDANE: I cannot say at this stage.

Morris Tube Cartridges.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War why there is no supply of cartridges for Morris tubes at Portsmouth or Woolwich available for the National Rifle Association affiliated clubs.

MR. HALDANE: The National Rifle Association affiliated clubs are allowed to draw Morris ammunition from store on payment when it is available, but the War Office cannot guarantee to have stocks always available, and when such is the case supplies must be obtained from the trade. At present the stock at Portsmouth and Woolwich has been exhausted, and further supplies will not be available until deliveries on contract are made in July.

*CAPTAIN FABER: Is it not possible to employ more men and women in making this ammunition?

MR. HALDANE: No, Sir.

Harrismith Garrison Club.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to certain proceedings of Brigadier-General Carter arising out of the affairs of the garrison club at Harrismith, and what action he proposes taking in this matter; and will he undertake that the officers who signed the minute in the suggestion book of the above-named club shall not suffer in any way through the action of the General referred to.

MR. HALDANE: No report of the incident mentioned has been received by the War Office. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa, has been directed to inquire into the circumstances and render a report.

MR. LEA: Will the right hon. Gentleman let us know the nature of the report.

MR. HALDANE: I will communicate with the hon. Member on the subject.

Special Campaign Pensions.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state in regard to Royal Warrant, Pay, and Promotion, 1906, paragraph 1176a, Special Campaign Pensions, what benefits will embodied Militiamen and Militia Reservists who served with the Regulars respectively derive in virtue of their services in the late South African War; and whether the Government will recognise the right of Militiamen who have served the country and gained medals alongside the Regular Forces to any rewards granted under this paragraph.

MR. HALDANE: Only soldiers of the Regular Forces enlisted under ordinary conditions are eligible for the special campaign pensions, the scope of which it is not proposed to enlarge.

Army Horses.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the Army Council has come to any decision as to the supply of horses in time of war.

MR. HALDANE: The general consideration of the supply of horses in time of war to which I have alluded in previous Answers does not appear to involve any definite decision of the character suggested by the hon. Member. The supply of horses on emergency is governed by the Army Act. Apart from this there exists a system under which between 16,000 and 17,000 horses are voluntarily registered for a first call on emergency.

Leakage of Official Intelligence.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that in many cases the first intimation to a military unit of a prospective change of its quarters emanates from the canteen contractor supplying that unit, and that in the case of the first appointment of an officer the news is often derived from the representative of a military tailor touting for the order for that officer's uniform, he will take steps to put a stop to such leakages of official intelligence.

MR. HALDANE: Every effort is made to suppress leakages of official information, and persons who have improperly given information are dealt with when discovered.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these malpractices are of very long standing, and that recent cases show that they are still very prevalent? Cannot he prohibit these brewers and tailors who indulge in the practice from being on the list of War Office contractors?

MR. HALDANE: I fear I cannot control the energy of these contractors.

MR. PIRIE: But surely the right hon. Gentleman can control the sources of information—the people at the War Office who give the information to the brewer and the tailor?

MR. HALDANE: We always endeavour to discover the leakage and to deal with it.

MR. PIRIE: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to deal with it in the manner I have suggested?

MR. HALDANE: I will investigate the matter.

Army Returns.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when he expects that the promised Return with reference to the numbers of the land forces of this and other countries in certain specified years will be presented to the House.

MR. HALDANE: I am waiting for information which had necessarily to be obtained from India. I cannot therefore at present say when the Return will be ready.

Soldiers' Free Kits.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there will be a free issue of any, and what, necessaries to the territorial soldier on joining the force.

MR. HALDANE: I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in debate on this point. This matter is largely one of detail, which is being carefully considered.

Lance-Corporals.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can yet say whether lance-corporals will be appointed in the Territorial Force or not.

MR. HALDANE: No, Sir. I shall not for some time be able to give the hon. Member any information on this point.

MR. ASHLEY: Are we not to be informed on this point during the discussion on the Bill?

MR. HALDANE: I do not think it is a vital point.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): Is it not a question affecting something like 10,000 men?

MR. HALDANE: I do not know.

Siege Guns.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can yet say whether any siege guns will be included in the artillery of the Territorial Force.

MR. HALDANE: I have no information to add to that given to the hon. Member on the 27th ultimo.†

Eltham Common.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can given an assurance that the trees and loam that are being removed from Eltham Common is not to clear the ground for the erection of military buildings.

MR HALDANE: As I have already stated clearly to the House, the felling of trees and the removal of soil on Eltham Common are for the purpose of rendering the ground more suitable for military training purposes and have nothing to do with the building proposals.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Why is military training necessary on this common, which does not belong to the War Office, and is only the size of St. James's Park?

MR. HALDANE: It does belong to the War Office.

Lieutenant-Colonels' Pay.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA (Oxford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what will be the aggregate sum required for the increase of pay to lieutenant-colonels; and whether this sum will be met by a Vote in the Estimates for 1907–8, or by means of a Supplementary Estimate.

MR. HALDANE: Approximately the sum of £15,000 a year will be required for this purpose. Provision for this charge has been made in the Estimates for 1907–8, Vote 1.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1307.

Irish Militia and Yeomanry.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now give detailed information as to the intentions of the Government respecting the amalgamation or disbandment of certain Irish Militia battalions of infantry, the future of their men and officers, the disposal of Irish Militia battalions of Artillery, the *status* of the North of Ireland and South of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry, and the payment of the men and officers; and whether County Associations are to be formed in Ireland as is proposed for England and Scotland; and, if so, can he outline their functions.

Mr. HALDANE: I hope to be able to deal with this matttr on debate this afternoon.

Indian Army—Artillery.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the fact that the Indian Army is unprovided with Horse or Field Artillery, other than mountain batteries, it is contemplated, in the event of war, that the Indian Army should take the field without Horse or Field Artillery; and, if not, what is the number of regular batteries which will be required, and from what source they will be provided.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.): Except in expeditions of very small importance the Indian Army never takes the field without British troops. The Secretary of State has already informed the House that there are eleven batteries of Horse Artillery and forty-five batteries of Field Artillery now in India.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will the hon. Gentleman answer my Question, which is—Are there any batteries of Horse and Field Artillery belonging to the Indian Army?

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I do not quite understand what the right hon. Gentleman means. He is perfectly aware that there are no native batteries of Artillery, Horse or Field. But there are in India, available for campaigns in India or on the frontier, those numbers details of which I have already given.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Perhaps since he told my hon. friend the Member for Blackpool that he was totally misinformed in asking this Question, the hon. Gentleman will now say whether the Indian Army, which is not the British Army in India, has any Horse or Field Artillery.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: No, none, and never has had since the Indian Mutiny.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Then it was not my hon. friend the Member for Blackpool who was misinformed, but the hon. Gentleman himself.

Germany and Canada.

*Captain FABER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state if he has any information concerning a new line of steamships, cargo or otherwise, which it is proposed to run between Germany and Canada in the event of a favourable tariff arrangement being arrived at between those two countries; and, if not, whether he will cause inquiries to be made.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): I have nothing to add to my Answer to a similar Question on 30th May.†

Captain FABER: Will the right hon. Gentleman make further inquiry?

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have no objection to doing so, but I do not think the result is likely to add to my Answer.

Ceylon Railway Schemes.

Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Secretary for the Colonies has sanctioned the following railway schemes in Ceylon, namely, the branch line from Aresawella to Ratuapura, and the survey of a branch line from the main north line to Manaar to connect with India; and whether he is aware that the Ratuapura extension is urgently needed in view of the large areas opened and to be opened for rubber planting on the line, exclusive of tea already in bearing, and that the Chamber of Commerce have expressed the opinion that this extension will be profit earning from the day it is opened for traffic.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 68.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. A fresh survey is about to be made of the line to Ratuapura, and the question of connection with India is still under the consideration of the Indian Government.

Repatriation of Chinese Coolies.

MR. HILLS (Durham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any decision has now been arrived at as to the financial responsibility for the repatriation of Chinese coolies.

MR. CHURCHILL: If the hon. Member's Question refers to repatriation on the expiration of contracts the payments will of course be regulated by law, but if he desires information as to the repatriation of coolies under what is known as the repatriation notice I can add nothing to my reply to the hon. and gallant Member for East Down given on the 15th of May.†

MR. HILLS: How soon can we get the information?

MR. CHURCHILL: I presume the hon. Gentleman is referring to the second of the two alternatives. I do not quite know, but the Government in the Transvaal are at present carrying on the arrangement exactly as it has been.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Is this Government to continue to bear the financial responsibility or the Transvaal Government?

MR. CHURCHILL: The cost of the repatriation of the Chinese who avail themselves of the special conditions offered to them by the Government will of course be met by this Government so long as the arrangement continues.

Transvaal Loan.

MR. HILLS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the guaranteeing by His Majesty's Government of a £5,000,000 loan for the Transvaal formed part of some general arrangement or understanding between His Majesty's Government and the Transvaal Government; and, if so, what are the terms of such arrangement or understanding, and what matters or subjects does it cover.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir.

Swaziland.

MR. HILLS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any arrangement or understanding has been come to with the Transvaal Government with reference to the future control of Swaziland; and, if so, what are the terms of such arrangement or understanding.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir, no arrangement has been made other than that set forth in the letters patent of the Transvaal constitution and the Order in Council of 1st December, 1906.

Zulu Prisoners at St. Helena.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Zulu prisoners sent to St. Helena are to be confined to gaol or to be allowed freedom of movement in the island, and generally be treated as political prisoners.

MR. CHURCHILL: The native chiefs in question have been removed under the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act, 1884, and will, therefore, be convicts in *status*; but every effort will be made by His Majesty's Government agreeable to the law to relieve their confinement from all harsh conditions of labour, and from all restraints not necessary to their safe custody.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Will their wives be allowed to accompany them?

MR. CHURCHILL: It is not customary to allow persons serving as convicts in *status* to be accompanied by their wives.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 951–2.

Sir Robert Bond and the Government.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the report of the discussion which followed the statement of Sir Robert Bond on the subject of the Newfoundland fishery has been omitted from the minutes of proceedings of the Colonial Conference recently issued to Members; whether he is aware of the reasons of this omission; and whether it is intended to issue an unexpurgated edition of the minutes for the information of hon. Members.

Mr. BOULTON (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): At the same time may I ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if, at the private discussion on Sir Robert Bond's statement at the recent Colonial Conference referred to in the Blue-book, Sir Robert Bond made any statement other than that published in the Blue-book; if so, if such statement was accompanied by any dramatic incident or contained any heated expression; and if the Colonial Office will put the House in possession of a full Report of all that took place in connection with the discussion in private on the subject of Newfoundland.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The conversation which followed Sir Robert Bond's statement on the subject of the Newfoundland fishery at the recent Colonial Conference was not published because the members of the Conference agreed that such publication would be contrary to the public interest as it related to negotiations which are pending with a foreign power. I may add, with reference to a similar Question of the hon. Member for the Ramsey division, that the discussion was not attended by any dramatic incident and did not contain any heated expression.

Mr. BOULTON asked whether copies of the correspondence that passed between the Colonial Office and Sir Robert Bond had been sent to the Press, and, if so, whether any explanation could be given of the fact that the *Daily Mail*, alone of the London newspapers, did not publish the correspondence.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have no relations with the *Daily Mail.*

Captain CRAIG asked whether anything else of equal importance had been suppressed in the Blue-book.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I think that discussion was the only discussion which was not printed *in extenso* in the Report of the proceedings, and the reason was that it referred to foreign affairs and affected other countries besides Great Britain.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Does the right hon. Gentleman not admit the allegiance of his own followers who own the *Daily Mail* ?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mr. BOULTON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if Sir Robert Bond wrote a letter to the Colonial Office emphatically denying having admitted to a representative of the *Daily Mail* that the report in that newspaper concerning the discussion on Newfoundland was substantially correct; and, if so, if the Colonial Office will publish Sir Robert Bond's letter.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The correspondence to which my hon. friend refers has already been made public.

Congo Free State.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on what date the posts in Meridi, recently occupied by the Congo Free State troops, were evacuated.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury; for Sir Edward Grey): My right hon. friend has not yet received a reply to the inquiries which he has made on this subject in accordance with the promise given to the hon. Member on 28th May.†

Mr. PIKE PEASE: Can the hon. Gentleman say when he will probably have the answer ?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No, Sir.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1471.

United States Customs Regulations.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the United States Government have notified that the new customs regulations made under the commercial agreement with Germany are to apply to all foreign countries so far as United States ports are concerned; and whether the evidence of British Chambers of Commerce as to the value of exported commodities will be accepted by the United States Customs officials equally with the evidence of German Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Informal assurances have been given that the same administrative regulations made under the commercial agreement with Germany shall apply to all foreign countries, and that power to give certificates of value allowed to German Chambers of Commerce will be allowed to any bodies which may receive official authority to grant similar certificates. My right hon. friend is consulting the Board of Trade as to making arrangements in this country to fulfil the conditions required.

Disturbances in China.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information respecting the riots in China; and whether any steps have been taken to protect the interests of His Majesty's subjects in the disturbed districts.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Telegraphic inquiries have been made of His Majesty's Minister at Peking. He states that His Majesty's consul at Amoy reports that the surrounding country is free from disturbance, and that His Majesty's consul at Swatow states that the accounts in the newspapers of local disturbances have been exaggerated, and that there has never been the slightest occasion for uneasiness. The rioters were dispersed at once by the Chinese authorities.

New Hebrides and Sierra Leone.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether negotiations are proceeding or pending between His Majesty's Government and the French Government for the exchange of the New Hebrides for Sierra Leone.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No, Sir.

Morocco.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it has been decided to extend the international police supervision in Morocco; and, if so, how many additional British officers will be appointed.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Answer is in the negative.

North Sea Fisheries Investigation.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, having regard to the fact that Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway have expressed their determination to continue the North Sea fisheries investigation for another year, he will ascertain if either of the other Powers who were party to the original scheme, viz., Russia, Holland, and Finland, intend to continue to participate in the investigations.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend would refer the hon. Member to the reply which he gave him on the 5th instant.† The matter is not yet definitely settled, and the decision of the Powers in question will be ascertained when they are ready to make it known.

The Consular Service.

Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can furnish the House with information as to the instructions issued to the consular service by the Foreign Office; whether a merchant in the United Kingdom applying for assistance to a British consul on the Continent is referred to the Board of Trade instead of being communicated with direct; if so, whether he can give any reasons for issuing such an instruction; and whether he has, in drawing up these instructions, taken into account the success of the consular service of the United States.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the negative. It is desirable that British traders should, before addressing inquiries to His Majesty's Consular officers, ascertain from the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade whether the information is available there. Consular officers supply this branch with information in order that it may be generally and quickly available. When a Consular officer receives a direct inquiry from a British merchant he forwards his reply through this branch, which transmits it to its destination after taking note of its contents for the benefit of British trade in general. The arrangement has been in force for some years. We are always ready to profit by the instructions of other countries.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 668.

MR. ALDEN asked whether the hon. Gentleman had taken into account the complaints of many merchants that this method did not facilitate the direct communication of complaints.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Yes, that fact was taken into account, and, after consideration of the circumstances, this arrangement was allowed to stand good as the best for British trade in general.

Vehicular Accidents in London.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of fatal and other accidents that happened in London, for the six months ending April, 1907, through omnibuses, cabs, and other vehicles drawn by horses.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The total number of street accidents to persons and property in the Metropolitan police district, known to the police to have been caused by horse-drawn vehicles during the six months ended 30th April last, is 9,951, of which 903 were due to omnibuses, 346 to tramcars, and the remaining 8,702 to other vehicles. Seventy-one of these were fatal accidents, five of which were due to omnibuses, and four to tramcars; and there were in addition 2,892 cases of personal injury, 211 of which were caused by omnibuses, and 77 by tramcars.

The Edalji Case.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a note as to the practice of the Home Office in dealing with criminal petitions, issued as an Appendix to the Papers relating to the case of George Edalji, in which it is stated that it is useless to attempt to re-try at the Home Office, on paper, cases already heard in open court before a jury, that the Home Office cannot hear counsel, does not see the witnesses and cannot judge of their demeanour, and has no means of arriving at the truth by means of cross-examination, and that therefore, any attempted re-trial of the case would necessarily be inferior in every way to the original trial; will he say whether the Committee who recently considered the case of Mr. Edalji were in any better position for enabling them to re-try the case than is the Home Office; and, if not, whether he will advise the appointment of a Committee to hold a public inquiry into the whole circumstances of the case, with power to hear witnesses and to call for papers and records.

MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. I am fully aware of the Memorandum to which the noble Lord refers, which correctly states the position. Sir Arthur Wilson and his colleagues did not attempt to re-try the case of Mr. Edalji. They consented to examine the documents in the possession of the Home Office and to report to me. My correspondence with Sir Robert Romer, which has appeared in the Press, shows that I should have been glad to appoint such a Committee as the noble Lord suggests, but I had no power to do so.

Fish Curing Industry.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the want of regularity and uniformity in applying the Factory Acts to the fish trade, as illustrated in the contraventions of the Act reported in respect of five firms in Aberdeen since September, 1906, which led to no proceedings; and whether, in order to allay the uncertainty which exists in the trade, and to prevent honourable firms being penalised for doing their best to carry on their business within the law, he can say whether the Factory Acts are or are not to be uniformly enforced upon this trade.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have had the whole question of the application of the Factory Act to the fish-curing trade under my consideration. Certain difficulties have been brought to my notice which were not raised by the industry when Section 41 of the Act was being settled, and I have directed an inquiry to be made during the present season into the conditions of the industry both as regards these points and also as regards other matters connected with the industry, including sanitary conditions which have been engaging the attention of my Department. The proceedings against the firms mentioned in the Question have been dropped pending the inquiry.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: Is the Act to be applied or not?

MR. GLADSTONE: I take it it will be applied, but discretion will be exercised. Perhaps the hon. Member will put another Question down in more definite terms.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): Will the inquiry be extended to the fish-curing stations in Scotland?

MR. GLADSTONE: I think so.

Carlisle Boy's Conviction.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of the conviction of a boy, fifteen years of age, for the theft of biscuits valued at 3d., and the sentence of fourteen days hard labour for such theft passed at the Town Hall, Carlisle, on the 31st ultimo; and if, having regard to the fact of the theft being a first offence, he can take steps to remit the remainder of the term of imprisonment.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have made inquiry into the case to which I understand the hon. Member to refer, and I find that the facts were not as represented in the newspapers. The defendant was eighteen years of age, not fifteen; he was of bad character, and he had been guilty of theft before. In the circumstances I see no reason for advising a reduction of sentence.

Boy Birching in Manchester.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a number of petty robberies committed by boys in Manchester, and to their punishment by strokes with the birch rod; whether he is aware that the boys are children of poor parents who reside in districts where there is little facility or space for wholesome games and recreation; and, as one of the birched boys, who stole some biscuits and chocolate, is but eleven years old, whether he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation to prevent the infliction of birching in such cases.

MR. GLADSTONE: I find on inquiry that in the case of juvenile offenders convicted of stealing, birching has been used in Manchester to a considerable extent as an appropriate punishment instead of fine or imprisonment. I may point out that it is usually poor people who suffer from the depredations of boys, and they have to be protected. I am not prepared to bring in the Bill suggested by the hon. Member, but I hope that the additional facilities afforded by the Probation of Offenders Bill now before the House may diminish the number of cases in which punishment is necessary.

MR. CLYNES: In this case the theft was from a large warehouse not owned by poor people.

MR. GLADSTONE: I think birching is a very useful form of punishment, and, honestly, I deem it better than sending a boy to gaol or imposing a fine on parents who cannot afford to pay.

"The Mikado."

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Lord Chamberlain has yet taken any steps to withdraw his prohibition of the production of *The Mikado*.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Lord Chamberlain has the matter under his consideration at the present time.

MR. TREVELYAN: How soon will the Lord Chamberlain be able to give a definite answer as to what his action will be?

Mr. GLADSTONE: If the hon. Gentleman will put the Question next week I will endeavour to answer it.

Mr. GEORGE FABER: In view of the serious loss and inconvenience suffered by innocent parties all over the country, will the right hon. Gentleman suggest to the Lord Chamberlain the desirability of making haste?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have no doubt the Lord Chamberlain is losing no time. I will certainly confer with him on the subject. I think my hon. friend may assume that action will be taken, and taken as soon as possible.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman communicate with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and get him to ask the Mikado of Japan whether he really objects? I am sure he does not.

Mr. LEA: I desire to ask if the order of the Lord Chamberlain was in consequence of the visit of Prince Fushimi, and did the order emanate from His Majesty the King?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mr. GEORGE FABER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, considering the losses resulting to the owners of the copyright of *The Mikado*, and to owners and lessees of theatres, and others, under arrangement to produce it, and having regard to the public uncertainty and inconvenience caused through the recent action of the Lord Chamberlain in the matter, the Government will introduce a Bill providing that, after the granting of a licence for the production of a stage play by the Lord Chamberlain, the licence shall not be withdrawn unless the play has been materially altered.

Mr. GLADSTONE: No, Sir. The Government are not prepared to introduce legislation of the kind suggested.

Mr. GEORGE FABER: Has the right hon. Gentleman no remedy to propose to meet these very serious losses?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I think the hon. Gentleman rather over-rates the matter. I certainly cannot bring in such a Bill as he suggests.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a certain performance at a theatre in London which, from any point of view, is distinctly offensive to the German Kaiser?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I am not aware of it.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: It is quite as bad as *The Mikado.*

Criminal Appeal.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, pending the passing of the Criminal Appeal Bill, or independently thereof, he will require a proper and formal record of the evidence given upon the trials of prisoners at quarter sessions to be made by the presiding chairman, and safely preserved; and that such evidence should no longer be permitted to depend upon rough pencilled notes of the chairman, as is shown to have been done at the trial of the Edalji case.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Judges and chairmen of quarter sessions take notes of the evidence for their own guidance in summing up. I have no authority to issue any instructions in this matter. In any case the quickest way of acheiving the hon. Member's object lies in the speedy passage into law of the Court of Criminal Appeal Bill, which provides for the taking of a shorthand note.

The Home Office and Messrs. Kynoch.

Mr. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in connection with the recent charge made by his Department against Messrs. Kynoch for the use of a sterilising ingredient in the manufacture of certain explosives, if he can state when and to whom did Messrs. Kynoch state that they declined to admit that the ingredient was there at all.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Messrs. Kynoch stated in two letters to His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, dated 19th December, 1906, and 4th January, 1907, respectively, that there was no unauthorised ingredient in the explosives which had been seized.

MR. MOONEY said the question he had asked was whether Messrs. Kynoch had ever stated that a certain ingredient was not used in the manufacture of certain explosives.

MR. GLADSTONE: The certain ingredient in question is mercury, and mercury is unauthorised. They stated in these letters that there was no unauthorised ingredient in the explosives.

MR. MOONEY: Are not the Home Office deciding this case before it has been decided judicially?

MR. GLADSTONE: The hon. Gentleman has put a question to me, and I have to answer it as well as I can. The Court of first instance gave judgment in favour of the Home Office, and that judgment was confirmed by Court of quarter sessions. Messrs. Kynoch have appealed on a technical point of law, whether the mercury was not such an infinitesimal quantity that the law ought not to apply. I am advised that the law is perfectly clear against Messrs. Kynoch on that point.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) asked whether the manager to Messrs. Kynoch at Arklow had stated that no mercuric chloride was added to the cordite, but only to the mining explosive.

[No Answer was returned.]

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the evidence in the recent action against Messrs. Kynoch, given by Captain Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, Dr. Farmer, Government chemist, J. M. Thompson, Government chemist, and Sir Frederick Nathan, superintendent, Waltham Abbey, to the effect that in foreign countries a solution of mercury was used for the purpose of acting as an antiseptic for gun-cotton; and whether, in view of these statements by the Home Office experts, he will state the grounds on which the Home Office hold that this ingredient is used elsewhere for the purpose of masking the heat test rather than as an antiseptic.

MR. GLADSTONE: The witnesses mentioned did not state that mercury was used as an antiseptic in foreign countries; they only said they had heard statements to that effect. Captain Thomson, moreover, expressed his disbelief that the mercury was for antiseptic purposes only. The reasons why the Home Office hold that this ingredient is probably used elsewhere for the purpose of masking the heat test rather than as an antiseptic are that the explosives of two foreign firms who have abandoned the use of mercury in consequence of the rejection of their goods previously sent to this country, have since that abandonment failed to pass the heat test; and one of them has since been detected in the attempt to use another masking agent to conceal the very impure nature of their explosive.

MR. MOONEY: Is it not the fact that Captain Thomson stated that this mercury was used under the regulations of the German War Office, and did not Dr. Farmer state that it was used as an antiseptic?

MR. GLADSTONE: I understand the witnesses stated it was not used as an antiseptic.

MR. MOONEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman look into the evidence?

MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir.

Free Pardons.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases during the last twenty years free pardons, in addition to monetary compensation, were granted by the Home Office to persons convicted of criminal offences.

MR. GLADSTONE: During the last twenty years free pardons in addition to compensation have been granted in four cases, involving six persons. I may add that altogether the number of free pardons granted during the last twenty years is forty-two, involving seventy-six persons.

Colwyn Bay Drainage.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the drainage at Colwyn Bay has yet been linked up with the new drainage system; and, if not, will he state the cause of the delay.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have made inquiry on this subject, and am informed that the whole of the drainage of Colwyn Bay has been linked up with the new drainage system, and that the old sewer outfalls have been done away with.

MR. WEIR: When will they be done away with?

MR. JOHN BURNS: They have been done away with.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the smells are most offensive and dangerous to the public health?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I gather that a Member of this House went to this particular neighbourhood last year and thought he smelt a smell, but that smell did not emanate from the drain or the sewer outfalls, but was an escape from a gas main.

MR. WEIR: I was that Member, and I remember the smell was foul and fœtid.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): Are not the local authorities carrying out improvements at a cost of thousands of pounds, and have not the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the death rate been most satisfactory for years past?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am satisfied that the local authority has been and is doing everything that can be done.

Valuation Bill.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has yet fixed a date for the introduction of the Valuation Bill.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The reply is in the negative.

Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

*MR. THOMASSON (Leicester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, appointed on 7th May, 1898, is still sitting; if so, whether he can inform the House when it will issue its Report on the bacterial or artificial methods of sewage treatment as distinguished from the natural method or land treatment; and when the final Report will be issued.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The Royal Commission are still sitting, and I understand that in their fifth Report, which they hope to issue before the end of the year, the methods of sewage treatment referred to in the Question will be dealt with. I further understand that the investigation of the disposal of trade effluents when not mixed with sewage, which will form the subject of the final Report of the Commission, has been commenced.

West Ham Guardians.

MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been called to the statement by the chairman of the West Ham Guardians, Mr. G. A. Paul, that if the Local Government Board had done their duty absent colleagues would be there that day instead of having been tempted by villains with pockets full of gold to do what they should not have done; and whether he has received the Report which he had instructed an assistant secretary of the Local Government Board to make with regard to the conduct of the officers of the West Ham Guardians.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I observe that in the accounts in the newspapers of a recent meeting of the guardians the statement mentioned in the first part of the Question is attributed to the chairman. I regret that any such statement should have been made. The Report of the assistant secretary referred to in the last part of the Question has been made. I have to-day received a communication from the guardians with respect to the officers implicated, and I will proceed to deal with the matter.

Tinned Meats.

*CAPTAIN FABER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has any official information showing that a Report has been published by the

State Commissioner of Health at Albany to the effect that the reforms to be made in American tinned meat are still incomplete, and that the chemical analyses of 154 samples of canned meats show the presence of boron preservative and other bad matter; and, if so, whether he will take steps to prevent these canned meats being landed in England.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. I have seen some account in a newspaper of the Report referred to in the Question, and I have asked for a copy of it. It does not appear to me that in the present state of the law I am empowered to take action of the kind suggested by the hon. Member, but, as he is no doubt aware, I have before the House a Bill which would empower me to make regulations authorising measures to be taken for the prevention of danger to the public health arising from the importation of articles of food. I hope I may have the assistance of the hon. Member in passing it.

In reply to Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham),

MR. JOHN BURNS said the Bill was on the Order Paper, and, if Members would remove their blocking Motions, he saw no reason why it should not go through to-day or to-morrow.

Wages of Unskilled Workmen.

MR. CLYNES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his Department can estimate the proportion of advance given to men classed as unskilled workmen out of the £60,000 which he has stated represents the weekly increase in wages during 1906; whether he has records to show that the total increase is due chiefly to workmen's organisations in the various trades; and whether he is aware that the legal right of trade union combination amongst unskilled workmen is often denied to them as a condition of employment.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): I regret that the Board of Trade are not able to make any trustworthy estimate of the proportion of the £60,000 which represents the rise in wages of unskilled workmen. A large part of the recorded rise took place in industries such as the textile trades and mining, in which trade unions are strong, but it is not possible to say precisely how much of the increase is due to these organisations. As regards the last part of the Question, I am aware that some employers have refused to employ members of trade unions. However regrettable this may be considered, it cannot be said to be illegal.

Crumford Canal.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has received any complaint from the local authorities and traders of the district that the Midland Railway Company is not carrying out the duties imposed upon it by the Crumford Canal Sale Act, 1846, and is allowing the canal and works, including the Butterley Tunnel, to fall into such a state of disrepair as to make them inconvenient and almost useless for traffic; whether an inspector of the Board of Trade has been sent to inspect this tunnel and the transport system immediately connected with it; whether the Report of the inspector has been received, and when it is to be published; and whether the Board of Trade proposes to delay the Midland Railway Company's Bill, now before Parliament, until this Report is in the hands of Members.

MR. KEARLEY: Complaint has been made of the condition of this canal by traders and owners of other canals. Sir William Matthews has been appointed to inspect the canal and report to the Board of Trade thereon, and held his inquiry during the past week. The Board of Trade expect to receive his Report very shortly, and will then consider the question of its publication. In the meantime they have intimated to the proper authorities that the Midland Railway Company's Bill, which contains certain provisions relating to the canal, will not be treated as an unopposed measure until Sir William Matthews' Report is received.

Foreign Prison-Made Goods.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the value of foreign prison-made goods of a description manufactured in the United Kingdom, and not being goods in transit, imported into the United Kingdom in each year from 1898 to 1906 respectively.

MR. KEARLEY: Under the "Foreign Prison-made Goods Act, 1897," goods of the nature alluded to in the Question are seized on importation if the Commissioners of Customs are satisfied as to their origin by evidence tendered to them. In 1898 goods to the value of £183 were seized under this Act. Since that year I understand that no further seizures have been made.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: May I ask, in view of the fact that the limitation of sources of supply of goods for the United Kingdom is inconsistent with the pledges of the Government and incompatible with the interests of British consumers, when the Government propose to further the cause of free trade by introducing a Bill to repeal this Act?

MR. KEARLEY: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Postmaster-General and Rural Roads and Footpaths.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, as the Telegraph (Construction) Bill proposes to deal with nine sections in three separate statutes forming part of a series of the twenty-two Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, by incorporation, reference, or repeal, he will cause a Memorandum to be issued, showing in plain language the effect of the suggested legislation, especially so far as it proposes to enable the Postmaster-General to interfere with ornamental or other trees at the sides of rural roads and public footpaths in rural districts.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I shall be glad to meet the wishes of the hon. Member and will lay a Memorandum on the Table to accompany the Bill in question.

Committee on Post Office Servants.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for India, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Post Office Servants, appointed and nominated on the 28th February, if he will say why the Committee has not met since its first sitting on 15th April, when it was adjourned *sine die*: and when he proposes to call them together to consider the Report which the House has ordered them to make.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: At the sitting on the 15th April, at which the hon. Member was not present, I explained that I was drafting a Report at the request of the Members. I hope that Report will shortly be circulated.

Australian Mail Subsidy.

MR LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether any understanding has been arrived at as to the amount of subsidy to be paid by the Imperial Government for the new Australian mail service and as to the conditions to be attached to the subsidy.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I beg leave to refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to two Questions in this House on the 27th of last month.† I then gave details of the new contract which I propose to enter into with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. In alternate weeks the mail service to and from Australia is provided by the Commonwealth authorities; and I have no information as to the arrangements which will be made by them.

Kent Education Committee.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the regulations of the Kent Education Committee defining the constitution, functions, and powers of local committees for higher education will be communicated to the several local authorities concerned in Kent, for their consideration and for the formulation of any suggestions before they receive the final approval of the Board: whether copies can be obtained; and what are the nature and scope of these regulations.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.): The making of regulations for local sub-committees of the Kent Education Committee is a matter for the Kent local education authority, and the approval of the Board is only required in cases where the Board are asked to accept such sub-committees as managers or governors of schools or classes applying for recognition for grants from the Board. The Board have given their assistance to the Kent Education Committee in framing regulations defining the constitution, functions, and powers of local sub-committees to be accepted by the Board as governing bodies of grant-earning secondary schools. They have been informed by the Committee that the borough or urban education committee concerned will be consulted before any rules for the establishment of such local sub-committees are approved. The distribution of copies is a matter for the discretion of the Kent Education Committee, and so far as I am aware the regulations are not yet in their final form.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1324-5.

Teachers' Training Colleges.

MR. HAY MORGAN (Cornwall, Truro): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the fact that after 31st July, 1909, the Board will require a certain proportion of the staff in all public elementary schools to be trained certificated teachers, he can inform the House what is being done by the Board of Education and by the local education authorities to increase the present inadequate training college accommodation.

MR. LOUGH: Subject to compliance with the regulations, building grants are now made by the Board to local education authorities to an amount not exceeding 75 per cent. in respect of all capital expenditure incurred by them for the provision of sites and buildings for training colleges, whether day or residential. Grants to the amount of £3 per place provided or 75 per cent. of the rent, whichever is the less, are also made in aid of renting temporary premises, where the Board are satisfied that it is inexpedient or impracticable at once to provide permanent premises. As the regulations under which these higher grants are payable were not issued until June of last year, there has been scarcely time for local authorities to take full advantage of them, but several applications are now under my consideration, and I have reason to believe that others which are now under discussion by various authorities will shortly mature.

Proposed Additional Judge.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the powers conferred upon His Majesty, by Section 18 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, and Section 6 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, to appoint, on an Address by both Houses of Parliament, additional Judges of the High Court of Justice have been fully exercised, or in what manner and to what extent the same have been exercised; and, if not, whether, in view of the present serious congestion of business in the King's Bench Division and the Court of Appeal, His Majesty's Government will recommend Parliament to present such an Address.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (SIR JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): There remains power, in my opinion, under the Act of 1876, Section 18, to appoint an additional Judge of the High Court of Justice on an Address by both Houses of Parliament. As the condition contemplated by the Act now exists, it is the intention of the Government at an early date to invite the House to adopt a Resolution in favour of the presentation of such an Address.

King's Lynn Crown Tenant.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether Mr. Eastland, a tenant of the Crown near King's Lynn, has been called upon to surrender half of his farm to enable the Crown to experiment upon small holdings in that district; whether Mr. Eastland has offered to give up 100 acres for the purpose; whether the Crown have in hand 350 acres which could be utilised for small holdings if desirable; and on what grounds the President of the Board of Agriculture has thought it right to disturb a tenant who has been in occupation of the farm for sixty years.

MR. LEA: Was not notice given to this tenant on the ground that he was an unsatisfactory tenant before the present President of the Board succeeded to office?

THE TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Somersetshire, S.): The right hon. Gentleman has been misinformed as to the facts of this case. Mr. Eastland has not been tenant of this farm for sixty years. He only holds it at present as executor of his mother, who was the Crown tenant and who died in January, 1906. Mr. Eastland was joint tenant with his mother from 1893 to 1898, but his tenancy was then terminated on the ground that the farm was not well managed, and it was subsequently relet to his mother as sole tenant. On his mother's death, Mr. Eastland applied to take the farm, which comprises nearly 950 acres, but he was not considered capable of managing so large a holding, and notice to quit at Michaelmas next was therefore given in September last. All this was done before the property was transferred to the management of my noble friend. With a view, however, to enable Mr. Eastland to retain the old home, my noble friend has offered to let him the farm house and principal buildings with about 368 acres of land, and it is proposed to let the remainder for small holdings, for which there is a great demand in the neighbourhood and for which the land is well suited. The 350 acres referred to by the right hon. Gentleman consists of marsh land in a very exposed position, and it is not land which is well adapted for small holdings. For some years past the grazing has been let by auction each year in small lots, the rent receivable for the current year being £1,270.

Crown Salmon Fishing Rights.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if the Woods and Forests Department have sold or let any Crown rights to salmon fishings in the estuary of the Ness and Beauly Rivers, Ross-shire; and, if so, will he give particulars as to the extent of the fishings.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that there have been three lettings and one sale by the Commissioners of Woods of salmon fishings in the estuary of the Ness and Beauly Rivers. The fishings let are those *ex adverso* the lands of Cairnlaw in the parish and county of Inverness, and the lands of Flowerburn in the parish of Rosemarkie and county of Ross, and the lands of Meikle Suddy in the parish of Knockbane or Avoch in the county of Ross; and the fishings sold are those *ex adverso* the lands of Bennetsfield and Rosehaugh in the last mentioned parish and county.

Balinakill Burial Ground.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether a new site for a burial ground at Balinakill, in the parish of Uig, Island of Lewis, has yet been prepared for interments.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): Consideration of this matter has been deferred by the sheriff till next month, but a site has been selected in anticipation of his decision.

Insanitary Schools in Scotland.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state in what way he proposes to deal with the sanitary defects in the public schools on the western mainland of Ross-shire and the Island of Lewis, as disclosed in the statement made by the medical officer of health for the county at page 7 of his last Report, to the effect that there was still much to do in the case of schools on the West Coast and the Lews, particularly with regard to the want of a due supply of pure water and the filthy condition of the cloak-rooms and usual conveniences.

MR. SINCLAIR: On the general question raised by my hon. friend I may refer him to the last two paragraphs of page lvii. of the Local Government Board Report for 1906. The Annual Report of the medical officer of the county of Ross and Cromarty goes to show that, supported by His Majesty's inspector of schools, he is drawing the attention of school boards to such defects as exist. When cases of failure of school boards to act on the recommendations of the sanitary officials are brought to the notice of the Local Government Board, it is that Board's practice to co-operate with the Scottish Education Department in securing improvements in the sanitary conditions of schools.

Compulsory Hiring of Land.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in drafting the Amendment to carry out the pledge given that where land may be hired compulsorily, in the event of such hiring proving disastrous no loss will be sustained by the landlord, in the event of such hiring proving successful any profit arising from feuing or increased rent will be held for the benefit of the State.

MR. SINCLAIR: I shall be glad to bear in mind the suggestion of my hon. friend.

Crofters' Grazings in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the fact that large areas of the crofters' common grazings in the Island of Lewis are absolutely valueless for grazing purposes, being merely skinned land from which the peat has been removed, he will consider the expediency of introducing an Amendment or clause into the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill to render such land available for fishermen's dwellings.

MR. SINCLAIR: The point shall be considered, but it does not seem desirable that I should give any undertaking now to extend the present scope of this Bill.

Dog Poisoning in Scotland.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the inhabitants of the Kilmuir and Logie districts of Ross-shire recently held a meeting at Scotsburn, Kildary, Ross-shire, under the presidency of Mr. R. H. Bone, county councillor for the district, for the purpose of considering the best mode of dealing with the numerous cases of dog poisoning resulting in the loss of about twenty dogs to the crofters; and will he communicate with the police for the purpose of instituting a searching inquiry and bringing the offenders to justice.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no information regarding the matter referred to by my hon. friend, but I am causing inquiries to be made.

MR. WEIR: I will furnish the right hon. Gentleman with information.

Land Values (Scotland) Bill.

*MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether any estimates have been called for from the Scottish assessors of the extra cost to them involved in the separation of land values under the Land Values (Scotland) Bill; what is the total amount of such estimates; and how the extra charge will be met.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have nothing to add to the reply given by me last Thursday to the same Question, but shall be glad to answer any further Questions the hon. Member wishes to ask.

*MR. YOUNGER: I repeated this Question as the right hon. Gentleman was not in his place on Thursday owing to the unprecedentedly late hour to which the Scottish Committee sat, and I now desire to ask him whether he will get an estimate from the assessors before the Second Reading comes on in view of the heavy cost which will undoubtedly be incurred both by the local authorities and by individuals?

MR. SINCLAIR: I do not admit that premiss. The question has been considered, but it is not considered necessary to ask for an estimate.

*MR. YOUNGER: Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that competent authorities have put the cost in Glasgow alone at over half a million?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Exhibition in Dublin.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture (Ireland) if he is aware that the management of the exhibition in Dublin have decided to carry it on on Sundays; and if, in view of the dissatisfaction caused by this decision, the Department will use its influence to prevent this course being continued.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): My hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question for him. It appears from statements in the public press that the executive of the Irish International Exhibition recently decided to open certain parts of the exhibition on Sundays. The Department have no authority over the executive of the exhibition, and do not feel called upon to take any action in the matter.

MR. MOORE: Is not the Department one of the principal guarantors of the exhibition?

MR. CHERRY: I am not aware of that.

MR. MOORE: I regret the Vice-President is not in his place to answer.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to make a statement.

Aughavas Letter Delivery.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will consider the advisability of having letters for the Aughavas district, in county Leitrim, delivered from Cloone post office instead of from Carrigallen post office, as at present, as letters posted are not delivered until the second day after from Carrigallen, whereas they would be delivered on the following day from Cloone.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Inquiry is being made on this subject; and when it is completed, I will acquaint the hon. Member with the result.

Poyntzpass Level Crossing.

MR. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that delay and inconvenience have been caused to the public by the action of the Great Northern Railway in keeping the gates of the level crossing at Poyntzpass, county Armagh, closed to the public from ten to fifteen minutes at a time whilst goods trains are shunting; if he will direct the company to erect a footbridge at the end of the platform so as to allow foot passengers to cross the line whilst the trains are shunting; and if he can state what is the time allowed to the company for closing up the county road, as the action of the company in this matter has become a public nuisance.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade have communicated with the railway company on the subject of the hon. Member's complaint and have received a reply of which I am sending him a copy. The Board of Trade have no power to require the construction of a footbridge at this crossing.

The following is the reply referred to:—

[COPY.]

Great Northern Railway Co, (Ireland),
General Manager's Office,
London.
8th June, 1907.

SIR,

In answer to your favour (R7187) of the 6th instant, enclosing copy of a Question which Mr. McKillop proposes to ask in the House of Commons on 10th instant regarding the level crossing at Poyntzpass station, I beg to say that every possible measure is taken by the company to prevent any undue delay at this crossing. There are only two goods trains stopping at Poyntzpass during the daytime (one in each direction), and I enclose copy of an instruction that is in force regulating the work at the station in connection with these trains. Our station master informs me that the crossing gates are never closed for more than four or five minutes at a time, and I have never received a complaint of undue delay having been experienced by the public.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) HENRY PLEWS,
General Manager.

The Assistant Secretary
(Railway Department),
Board of Trade, London.

WORKING TIME TABLE JUNE, 1907.

Level Crossing, Poyntzpass Station.

Down goods trains having shunting operations to perform at Poyntzpass station must come to a stand outside the down home signal. The train then to be divided for the purpose of detaching and attaching as required, and the front portion drawn forward clear of the level crossing, which must then be opened for the passage of public traffic. When the shunting operations have been completed the train to be joined up. It must be the special care of all concerned that the shunting operations are so conducted that there will be no danger of the vehicles being shunted coming in contact with the gates. The guard of the train before dividing same must see that the brake is "hard on" on rear van.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I want to ask any Minister who can say —I am not sure whom to ask—when the Government intend to bring forward their Resolution on the House of Lords. As there must be considerable notice of the Question on the Paper, I take it it will not be brought forward as first suggested on the 17th instant.

MR. HALDANE said he believed the Resolution would not be taken on the 17th, but probably on the 24th. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would repeat his Question to-morrow to the Prime Minister as to the terms of the Resolution and as to the notice which would be given of it.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committtee B (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill): Mr. Barnard; and and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Probation of Offenders (No 2) Bill): Mr. Toulmin. Report to lie upon the Table.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from Standing Committee A.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 185.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 185.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration to-morrow, and be printed. [Bill. 225.]

NEW BILL.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT (No. 3) BILL.

"To amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901," presented by Mr. Steadman; supported by Mr. Thorne; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th July, and to be printed. [Bill 226.]

TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 28:—

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield Central) said it was extremely necessary in all transfers that the feelings of the individual regiments should be considered in every possible way and that transfers should not be made in an arbitrary manner. The insertion of the words contained in the Amendment he desired to move would oil the wheels considerably, and therefore facilitate the carrying out of the measure.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 19, line 18, after the word 'Order,' to insert the words 'and the commanding officer of which has signified in writing his consent thereto.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) replied that the reasons put forward by the hon. and gallant Member were hardly sufficient for the acceptance of his Amendment. Sub-section 1, Clause 28, only proposed to entitle the King by order in Council to transfer units.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool), in moving to insert after the words "every such unit or part thereof," in Sub-section (1) the following—

> "Shall continue to be officially described in such a manner as to preserve any national or special description of the said unit, and,"

said that his object was to continue the old names of the corps, which meant a great deal to the Auxiliary Forces. The right hon. Gentleman knew what *esprit de corps* meant to the 10th Legion and the Old Guard. Anything which would lead to a discontinuance of their old names would be strongly resented by men in the old corps of the Auxiliary Forces and by the nation at large. For instance, there were the Honourable

Artillery Company—a corps which had a glorious history—and Lovat's Scouts, and the King's Colonials; it was to be hoped the names by which they were known all over the world would not be abolished. A man who knew that his father had belonged to the Honourable Artillery Company would be much more likely to enlist in it under that name than if it were called the 4th Middlesex Artillery. Retaining the old names would continue the glorious traditions of the corps and considerably help in getting recruits.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 18, after the word 'thereof,' to insert the words 'shall continue to be officially described in such a manner as to preserve any national or special description of the said unit, and'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HALDANE said that, wherever he could keep up the characteristics and traditions of a corps he hoped to do so, and that would be done in a great many cases. But this Amendment was imperative and would impose a statutory duty upon the military authorities to continue the old names in official descriptions. The sympathies of the Government were with the general policy of the Amendment, and they would endeavour, whenever circumstances permitted, to give effect to it. They laid great stress on preserving the continuity of traditions, but he thought there would be cases in which it would not be possible, having regard to the organisation as a whole. There were points at which it was imperative to draw the line in every scheme of organisation, and they must be left free to carry out their arrangements. He did not object to nine-tenths of what the hon. Gentleman had said, but he did not wish the insertion of a cast-iron provision of this sort.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said there was one thing the people of this country had confidence in, and that was in the honour of the House of Commons. If a provision was in a statute, it was regarded as were the laws of the Medes and the Persians, and there was no doubting it. As the hon. Member for Blackpool had said, there was nothing to which the Regular Army and the Auxiliary Forces attached more importance than to old titles and old associations. The Westminster Volunteers, with which he had been for many years associated, was always looked upon as a Parliamentary regiment and associated with the Palace of Westminster and the City of Westminster. At the present time there was great interest and anxiety as to what would be the fate of that regiment and of others, and if anything could be done to preserve them it ought to be done. The right hon. Gentleman had chosen the territorial element as being a very powerful factor in the success of his Bill, as was shown by its title. He evidently desired to connect each regiment with a locality, and that had been the desire of all military reformers for the last thirty or forty years. Lord Cardwell began it and Lord Wolseley continued it. If he accepted the Amendment, the right hon. Gentleman would only carry out his own intention, and prevent any tendency in a contrary direction on the part of a less friendly successor.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he would venture to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that when regiments were at work in brigades the title of the individual regiment formed part of the word of command, and every commanding officer knew that he could appeal to his men by that title, and obtain a smart response which might be quite absent if there was no such condition present. Anyone who had commanded a battalion at any time would agree that the mere fact that the title of the battalion constituted an essential portion of the word of command was of vital importance. It could not be the same thing if battalions were numbered from one to 100 in the Territorial Force, and if the old characteristics associated with the old names as far back as men could remember were done away with. If this change were made the military spirit might disappear and the efficiency of their military work be destroyed. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that they were unreasonable in asking that this provision should be embodied in the Bill, but he thought that they on that side of the House had already received from Ministers so many promises which had not in any sense been fulfilled that they were justified in making the request. All the right hon. Gentleman had said was that he would do his best and see if it was possible, but they were not satisfied; they wanted what he undertook put down in black and white. Last year on the Education Bill they were again and again promised all sorts of things which they never got because they were never embodied in the Bill, and he had no doubt that if under this Bill titles of battalions were wiped out they would be told, "Well, I did my best, but I could not manage it." That was not enough, and he hoped his hon. friend the Member for Blackpool would go to a division on the subject. Nothing would go further to destroy the right hon. Gentleman's Bill than that it should be left an open question whether battalions or brigades or other military units were to be left without those essentially individual and personal titles with which they had always in the past been associated. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to adopt the Amendment.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said that if he thought the insertion of these words would interfere with the right hon. Gentleman's plans or create confusion in his scheme he would not vote for them, but he was bound to say, so far as his own personal observation and inquiry into the matter went, there was ample proof that an intention to preserve the existing designation of each unit would be very favourably received. He remembered when Lord Cardwell's scheme was introduced what a feeling arose about the incorporation of the Monmouthshire Light Infantry regiment with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and how the Monmouthshire men resented the suppression of the name of their regiment. As far as regarded the county part of which he had the honour to represent, there was, he was sure, every desire to retain the present titles, which were greatly appreciated. He would not oppose the right hon. Gentleman if he objected, because he recognised that the Amendment, as drafted, tied his hands very tightly, and was certainly an unusual sort of insertion in a Bill, but if he could see his way to accept the Amendment he would be grateful to him, and he believed that the retention of present titles would be found of very great service in recruiting.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said that if the right hon. Gentleman did not accept the Amendment he would plainly show that he did not appreciate how strong local patriotism was. The King's Colonials, for instance, had grown in the last two years; the title made an appeal to a great number of Colonials who were in this country either temporarily or permanently, and they were very proud of the position to which the force had attained. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree that it was a good thing to absorb into the force any Colonials in the country, and through their assistance be able to complete a Volunteer organisation. In the same way the different local regiments wished to retain their distinctive designations. Let hon. Members imagine what effect would be produced upon the London Scottish if the right hon. Gentleman tried to do away with the name and the distinctive garb of the corps. He thought there would be a revolt of a kind which would startle the right hon. Gentleman, who would do well to cultivate that spirit of local patriotism He hoped the right hon. Gentleman did not think he was supporting the Amendment for the sake of obstructing the Bill; he was urging the point with absolute sincerity because he believed it to be of national importance. If these distinctive titles were not preserved the right hon. Gentleman, in the future, would have to contend with a good deal of disaffection and ill-feeling. The whole conduct of the Bill by the right hon. Gentleman had been most conciliatory, but he had been full of resistance in regard to concessions and had made none. In this case his yielding would be not a concession but an act of justice and wisdom, and he would not sacrifice anything. Did the right hon. Gentleman intend this Territorial Army to be all of one dull colour, and to deprive it of anything of a distinctive character? Such a course would be very unwise, because the different corps of Volunteers coming under the County Associations valued their distinctive character and dress. It seemed a very small thing, but he urged the right hon. Gentleman to consider it, because he believed that behind it lay the secret of success in recruiting. The right hon. Gentleman would have quite enough of the dull drab in his special contingents.

MR. HALDANE said he much appreciated the considerations which had been put forward, but when he came to look at the clause and the rigidity of an Act of Parliament, he thought the wisdom of the advice he had received was against it. It was not a case of resisting pressure so much as a lapse from virtue. He was afraid of what the effect might be. He was anxious, like Christian in the "Pilgrim's Progress," to reach the end of his journey without falling into a precipice on the one hand, or being stuck in a quag on the other, and this Amendment looked something like a quag.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said he had not gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's answer whether he was in sympathy with the Amendment or not.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) thought they were entitled to know what was at the back of the right hon. Gentleman's mind. What was he afraid of? There was no rigidity in the Amendment. They were not asking the right hon. Gentleman to do the impossible. There were two points involved, and he wanted to know whether the right hon. Gentleman was afraid of the Militia, the Yeomanry, or the Volunteers continuing to be known under his scheme by those names, or was he afraid of the local names being retained, as for instance, the Kentish Regiment being called the Buffs, and so forth. Was he afraid of either, or both of those things? If he was afraid of the first, the second would give him a ground of defence, because all those regiments had been affiliated to some line regiment, and if he allowed them to be called by their local names that fear would be got rid of, because the units in the field were numbered in a particular way. In the field they became the first battalion of the second division of the third brigade, and so on.

MR. HALDANE said the right hon. Gentleman had asked him what he had at the back of his mind. It was not what was at the back of his mind, but what was in front of his eyes. The units

> "shall continue to be officially described in such a manner as to preserve any national or special description of the said units."

He did not know what the latter words meant, and on those he did not propose to commit himself. But he did know that the first part of the Amendment took away all latitude from the authorities. The Government were disposed to carry out the views which had been expressed, but declined to tie their hands. General considerations must prevail. They desired to be free in carrying out their promises, and could not tie their hands.

MR. ASHLEY thought the right hon. Gentleman had a certain amount of sympathy with the Amendment. There could no doubt that if they went to a division on the question it would tell very greatly against the Government in the country. They did not want in the least to interfere with the right hon. Gentleman's organisation. All they desired was to insure that the units should retain their old names. They were not asking that the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers should still be called the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, but that the regiments should retain the names they had in the past. If the right hon. Gentleman could not accept the Amendment as it stood, would he accept it if after the word "continue" the words "wherever possible" were inserted? It would not tie the hands of the Government to accept it in that form, but it would put into the Act what he believed was the desire of every Member of the House, namely, that when these forces were transferred to the new Territorial Force they should be allowed to retain the local names which they had had ever since they were brought into being.

VISCOUNT MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) said he did not gather from the answer of the Secretary of State to the right hon. Member for Dover whether there was to be any connection between the Territorial battalions and the Line battalions, or whether they were to be numbered separately.

MR. HALDANE said that all these matters he proposed at a later stage to refer to a representative Committee of the Territorial Force.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that this was a matter as to which the Committee ought to be thoroughly assured, because the proposed practice had already been resorted to with very unsatisfactory results. The right hon. Gentleman had said he was going to consult a representative Committee. He remembered the House being assured that the leading questions contained in the Bill were to be referred to an influential Committee, and they were so referred. The House had heard a good deal of that body of gentlemen, but they had heard nothing of their conclusions; they had never had a report from them, and they had never heard what their opinions were. They were in this difficult position, that on a great many questions that had been raised in the Bill they had been told that the matter was going to be considered or had not been considered, but in no case had they been told that it had been considered and that they could be told the result. He would not be astonished at any hon. Member asking for some further assurance of the right hon. Gentleman's intentions. He had not won the confidence of the Committee in this matter. He had refused to give the information required. He had not even answered the last question put to him by the right hon. Member for Dover. He would advise his right hon. friend under the circumstances to put his question again and ask for a definite answer.

MR. WYNDHAM said the right hon. Gentleman could easily answer because now the Prime Minister was beside him, and the right hon. Gentleman, when Minister for War, made a very good reform in the Army when he linked the Auxiliary Forces to the Line. Was the Secretary of State for War now going to throw over the policy of the Prime Minister or adhere to it?

MR. ASHLEY said that as he had had no answer from the right hon. Gentleman he would formally move as an Amendment the suggestion he had made. He only wished to have it put on record that that was the wish of the House of Commons.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'continue' to insert the words 'wherever possible.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. HALDANE said the insertion of the words would be an example of thoroughly bad drafting. What was the meaning of "wherever possible"? The words imposed no legal obligation, and would merely disfigure the drafting. The Bill was carefully drawn, and it would be much better to accept the assurance which he had given on behalf of the Government that they recognised the point which hon. and right hon. Gentlemen were raising, and he would do his best to gather opinion upon it. The words suggested by the hon. Member would simply leave the matter to the discretion of the Government, and after the declaration he had made on their behalf it would not be right to accept the words.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the drafting of the Bill was not like a picture in the Academy, which was to be framed to show its artistic effect, and have the name underneath of the master who had introduced it into the House of Commons. It was purely a matter of convenience. If the right hon. Gentleman was a perpetual Secretary of State for War, they might rely with confidence on his statement, for his words had been taken down, and they would always be able to point to them if there was any departure from his declaration. But as Lord Elgin said at the Imperial Conference, a Minister of State was purely a will o' th' wisp, a passing shadow, and what his hon. friend wanted to do was to put into the clause words which would show successive Secretaries of State for War that it was the desire of the House of Commons which passed this Bill to retain the old territorial distinctions of regiments. He did not think the Secretary of State did himself justice when he said that the Amendment would disfigure the drafting. The right hon. Gentleman had expressed the intention of consulting a committee of officers. He was a member of the old Duma, as it was called

—the right hon. Gentleman called it a Council—but it had not met since last July. They had never seen the Bill, and they knew nothing whatever of its provisions. What of the new Duma which the Secretary of State for War proposed to call into existence with a view to consulting it about these territorial distinctions? It might be called once, and, after a long speech or a few words, adjourned and never summoned again, just as in the case of the old Duma; he did not know whether the latter was in existence now or not. Surely the right hon. Gentleman could accept the Amendment, it would not tie his hands absolutely, but would simply act as a guide to the Army Council in the future, and to the successors of the right hon. Gentleman.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said the right hon. Gentleman had expressed his intention of gathering from officers opinion as to the direction in which territorial feeling ran, but he would best gather that opinion from Members in the House who represented the districts concerned and knew their wishes.

*The CHAIRMAN said it would be better if they got rid of the Amendment to the Amendment, and they could then resume the discussion of the original Amendment.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said the essence of the Amendment to the Amendment was that they ought to allow the latitude which was already allowed elsewhere in the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the insertion of the words would disfigure the drafting, and that was the only real objection he had taken; he had not dealt with the point of the Amendment at all. But if the Secretary for War looked at his own Bill he would find in a dozen places words as indefinite as those of his hon. friend. The words "wherever possible" in the context clearly meant nothing else than "wherever possible" in the eyes of the central authority, namely, the War Office. In one part of the Bill appeared the words "definite or indefinite," and he supposed the period to be served must be "definite or indefinite"; why did the right hon. Gentleman put such disfigurements into his Bill? The fact was that the Government were determined to smash up these distinctions to which the regiments unquestionably attached incalculable value; and the right hon. Gentleman, if he rejected this and all similar Amendments, would greatly alienate the sentiment on which these distinctions were founded, and although he might gain from the financial point of view, from the Territorial Army point of view the result would be very serious.

Amendment to the Amendment agreed to.

Question proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY said that, as the right hon. Gentleman was going to rely on the territorial feeling for the recruiting of his Territorial Army, if he wished to make that force popular he ought to listen to those who represented the territorial case, and who told him that where he would get one recruit for a numbered battalion of the Territorial Force, he would get fifty recruits for such and such a battalion of the county regiment, because that battalion had its traditions and a name. Why should the right hon. Gentleman hesitate? He said that the Amendment would be a disfigurement. Instead of "wherever possible" the form "as far as may be consistent with" might possibly not be a drafting disfigurement. The right hon. Gentleman would recognise that they were not trying to drive him into a corner. What they were discussing were the particular titles and names to which territorially they attached great importance; and what they asked for was a definite promise that as far as possible those territorial titles should be preserved. He could not see why the right hon. Gentleman should be so coy and coquettish over the question. Surely, if he would not adopt the words "wherever possible," he could accept the form "so far as may be consistent" with his general scheme. That would not be bad drafting. If he would put into the clause some such words, they would do their level best to help the Bill when it became an Act; it was not their intention to throw cold water upon it. Would the battalions be 1, 2, and 3 of the Territorial Army, or would they be 1, 2 and 3 of such and such a regiment, with its title? They wanted to know, for those who represented counties were aware of the strength of the territorial feeling, and the right hon. Gentleman would never have a Territorial Force unless he consulted that feeling.

*SIR H. AUBREY-FLETCHER (Sussex, Lewes) said that, as one who had served as a Volunteer officer, and who assisted in the formation of the Volunteers, he would like to join in the appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. He could add to what others had said that the Volunteers attached great importance to the change which was made for the administrative battalions of the county to that of the battalions of their own county regiment. They were very proud indeed of the alteration. He had been for twenty years a commanding officer of one of these battalions, and he was one of those who approached the Prime Minister at the time the change was made. He was certain it would give the greatest satisfaction to those who joined the new Territorial Army if the Amendment were adopted, and it would bring more recruits to the Territorial Force than if they simply had the battalions numbered.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said it was really more than a mere question of nomenclature. He had asked the right hon. Gentleman a point which was vital to the Bill, viz., whether the connection between the Auxiliary Forces and the Regular Army was going to be maintained and whether the battalions of the Territorial Force were to be known by their own special numbers, or whether they would be known as the 4th, 5th, and 6th battalions of their respective county regiments. They had received the astonishing answer that the matter was not settled and that it was going to be referred to a committee of those interested in the Territorial Army. He entirely objected to that way of settling the matter, because the question whether the Territorial Army was to remain in close connection with the Regular Army or whether it was to be an Army by itself was vital to the whole Bill. He would point out that the committee was to be appointed by the County Associations nominated by the Army Council. The Army Council would have the first and last voice in settling the matter, and it seemed to him that the right hon. Gentleman, as the representative of the War Office, might now tell them, instead of deferring it to a committee which would have no real voice in settling the matter at all, but which would be purely consultative, and whose opinion would not be accepted if it ran counter to that of the Secretary of State.

SIR GILBERT PARKER asked the right hon. Gentleman if he would, in view of his professed sympathy, undertake on Report to bring in an Amendment properly drafted embodying the policy of the Government on the point at issue. If they had that assurance he was sure his hon. friend would be willing to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. HALDANE said he did not wish to put into the Act all sorts of things which were inappropriate. He had given an assurance that the Government appreciated the general desire that these territorial designations should be maintained. Their present intention was that there should be, say the 4th, 5th or the 6th battalions of Territorial Regiments, and not separate organisations altogether. He thought that so far as territorial organisation was concerned he had given every assurance that could be reasonably asked for.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he could not vote for the original Amendment, because it would be unfair to impose a statutory liability on the right hon. Gentleman. But for the Amendment as modified he could vote. Let them notice what the position would be. His hon. friend had affirmed categorically that it was desirable to make it part of the duty of the War Minister to have regard as far as possible to the territorial divisions of the battalions of the new Army, and that seemed a very legitimate and reasonable proposal. That was met by a categorical negative on the part of the Government. They had refused to make it part of the duty of the Army Council and the War Office to have regard to the territorial traditions of the county regiments.

MR. HALDANE: Yes, the statutory duty.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, the statutory duty. Nothing the right hon. Gentleman could now state would have any weight with the Army Council in future. He hoped every Volunteer and every corps throughout the land would understand that the Government had met this reasonable and moderate proposal which had been put forward in the interests of Volunteer Corps with a categorical negative, and had refused to make it the duty of the Army Council to consider the territorial traditions of the battalions.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said the right hon. Member for Croydon had expressed in very inadequate terms the impression that was left on his mind and on the minds of his hon. friends around him. The Secretary of State for War refused to put anything into an Act of Parliament which would bind him or the War Office hereafter as to the designation of each branch of the Territorial Army. He gathered that as far as the Yeomanry were concerned the right hon. Gentleman had already given an undertaking that that designation would be maintained. As regarded the Militia to be transferred to the Volunteer battalions, it was quite impossible in debates of this kind for the right hon. Gentleman to undertake the designation of those battalions, because many of them would be extinguished, and others would be merged one into another, and therefore it was necessary that the authorities should be left a free hand. His right hon. friend had said in the clearest possible way that where battalions survived the territorial traditions would be maintained in the future as in the past. He thought that was as much as could be expected.

MR. ASHLEY said they might rest perfectly satisfied if the right hon. Gentleman was going to remain in his present position. They knew, however, that the present Government was not going to last much longer, and what they wanted was to put into the Bill something that would secure that these titles should be continued, and he would not be satisfied unless some assurance of the kind were given.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said the hon. Member for Chippenham had assured the Committee that the right hon. Gentleman had given a distinct undertaking that that which they were now insisting upon had actually been promised in the case of the Yeomanry. Was that so? If that was the case, then they had a right to demand it on behalf of the Volunteers and the Militia. Surely the right hon. Gentleman did not imagine that the territorial feeling was confined to those who rode horses.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that one difficulty in carrying out this proposal was that there might be a regiment called the Shoreditch Fusiliers, whom it might be necessary under this scheme to convert into artillery, and in that case how could they retain the old name? It would be ridiculous to tie the Army Council down by Act of Parliament to use the actual nomenclature of particular battalions. The Secretary of State for War had given a pledge on the point, and if the right hon. Gentleman went out of office, and the present Opposition formed a Government, they would have no difficulty in persuading the future War Minister to carry out what they were now asking for. He thought it would be a great pity to tie down the Army Council in the way suggested by the Amendment.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division had made the case much more serious, because he had led them to suppose that he had been able to conclude some kind of arrangement with the Secretary of State for War that his regiment should be known as the Wiltshire Yeomanry, although he had sacrificed any such arrangement as far as the Volunteers and Militia were concerned. He was much obliged to the hon. Baronet for letting the cat out of the bag. That revelation made it all the more important that the right hon. Gentleman should accept the Amendment. They wanted something in the Act of Parliament which people could see, and read, and understand.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.) asked the right hon. Gentleman to state clearly to the House whether he had given the undertaking to which the hon. Baronet the Member for Chippenham had referred.

Mr. HALDANE said that what he did say was that he saw no reason why there should not be Yeomanry in the Territorial Force.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY said that really was not the point. They wished to know what the Yeomanry were to be called. Were the Yeomanry to be allowed to serve under their special regimental territorial titles ? He wished to have an indication whether that particular privilege would be given to them.

Mr. HALDANE said he thought the right hon. and gallant Gentleman had got enough information.

Lord BALCARRES asked the right hon. Gentleman to give a straight answer. There appeared to be a conflict of opinion between him and the hon. and gallant Member for the Chippenham Division.

***Sir J. DICKSON-POYNDER** said he thought it quite unnecessary to repeat what the right hon. Gentleman had said. The right hon. Gentleman had given an indication, but it was not to be put in the Act of Parliament. The indication was given in the clearest possible language which must be intelligible to anyone who desired to understand what the Yeomanry were to be called.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: What are they to be called ?

Lord BALCARRES said he had heard nothing from the Secretary of State to indicate exactly what the Yeomanry were to be called. It was not a question whether they were to be called the Yeomanry, the Cavalry, or the men of the Territorial Force, but whether they were to be allowed to retain their old traditional territorial designations. The hon. Baronet opposite had stated that an undertaking had been given to the Yeomanry. The right hon. Gentleman had denied an undertaking to the infantry branch.

***Sir J. DICKSON-POYNDER** said he did not suppose that the Wiltshire Yeomanry would be called the Yorkshire Yeomanry.

Lord BALCARRES said they might be called the Western District No. 6. The Yeomanry officers might be satisfied with the undertaking which had been given, but he extremely regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not complied with the request to give an undertaking for the infantry.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 223.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt. Hn. G. (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Snowden, P.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)

Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Sir Howard Vincent.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.

Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT moved to leave out from the word "that" to the end of the sub-section, and to insert the words, "any person commissioned, enlisted, or enrolled in the Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteer Forces before the passing of this Act will be entitled upon application, in writing to his commanding officer, to a free discharge from any contract, obligation, or undertaking he may have entered into." He said his object was to secure that any person who had enlisted in the Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteers, and who did not see his way to consent to the new condition of affairs, should be entitled to a free discharge. There was nothing more unsatisfactory than to detain in the Army men who would not give willing service. He quite granted that there were many provisions in the Bill by which the penal clauses did not apply to a man without his consent. But that would establish two classes in every regiment, than which nothing would more militate against the efficiency of the force. The one class might be dissatisfied with the new condition of things and they would go about saying, "We cannot get our discharge; we never bargained for this, and it is unfair." All that would interfere with recruiting and would do infinite harm, and it would be better for the service if the men were out of the regiment. If the right hon. Gentleman accepted his Amendment he might be deprived of the services of a limited number of men; but, on the other hand, it would deprive those men of a very sound grievance.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 26, to leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words, 'any person commissioned, enlisted, or enrolled in the Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteer Forces before the passing of this Act will be entitled upon application, in writing to his commanding officer, to a free discharge from any contract, obligation, or undertaking he may have entered into.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. HALDANE said that the Amendment in its language was very startling. There was no limitation of the right of the Volunteer to be relieved of all obligations, including even a promise of marriage! He saw what the hon. and gallant Member meant, but the proposal as it stood would be absolutely unworkable. Moreover, it was really unnecessary, because subsection (2) section 28 provided that "nothing in this section or in any Order made thereunder shall, without his consent, affect the conditions or area of service of any person commissioned, enlisted, or enrolled before the passing of this Act." Anyone who said he did not want to go under the new conditions would be released. Consequently his discharge was absolutely certain.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT asked if there was any section which would enable the man to demand his discharge under the new conditions?

Mr. HALDANE said that it would be wrong to discharge a man who refused to give up his rifle, which was the property of the Secretary of State; but on giving up his rifle, if he did not want to take service under the new conditions he would be discharged forthwith.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said that the words of the Amendment might not be all that could be desired, but the point raised by the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield was worth considering. The men were often under other obligations than that of giving up their rifles. It was quite true that under a subsequent subsection the men might continue under the old conditions and also under the new; but, in his opinion, that would not work at all. There were a good number of men who would want to go on under the old conditions but who would not give a pledge under the new conditions to undergo a six months' training, and, therefore, he submitted that those men who could not go on under the new conditions were entitled to their discharge.

MR. HALDANE said it was clear that as regarded an obligation to serve under the new conditions, if the men did not consent they would have no difficulty in obtaining a discharge. But in cases where the men had come under obligation to the corps, that was a matter of contract, and he thought it would be safe to leave that to be worked out by the associations.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he would be satisfied if the Secretary for War could devise a form of words which would secure what he wanted. He had no pretensions to be a Parliamentary draftsman, and he might have made his Amendment too wide to carry out his own views.

MR. HALDANE said he could draw his own clauses but not clauses devised by other people. He could assure the hon. and gallant Gentleman that there was no desire to retain an unwilling man under the new conditions, and there would be no great difficulty in his obtaining his discharge.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ASHLEY said that he wished to move an Amendment to subsection (c) merely to ventilate the subject, rather than to force a division.

MR. HALDANE, interposing, said he had considered this question, and he was prepared to accept an Amendment placed on the Paper by the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield, subject to some Amendments which he had suggested. This would also cover the object the hon. Member for Blackpool had in view.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT thanked the right hon. Gentleman for his courtesy for meeting the views of many regiments in this matter. Great apprehension had been excited, especially in the best administered corps, those which had economised their funds and resources, in regard to subsection (c). Those corps had erected buildings, constructed rifle ranges, and spent money in other directions. Therefore acting on the advice of a very eminent counsel he had put down his Amendment which he would move in the slightly altered form suggested by the Secretary for War, so that subsection (c) would read as follows:—"For transferring to the association any property belonging to or held for the benefit of any such unit so however that all property so transferred shall as from the date of the transfer be held by the association for the benefit in like manner of the corresponding unit of the Territorial Force or for such other purposes as the association with the consent of such corresponding unit, to be ascertained in the prescribed manner, shall direct; and any question which may arise as to whether any property is transferred to an association, or as to the trusts or purposes upon or for which it is or ought to be held, shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.'" If such a concession were made it would entirely meet the views of himself and others who had given the matter very long and careful consideration. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, after the word 'to,' to insert the words, 'or held for the benefit of.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. ASHLEY asked whether, if this property was transferred to the associations, it would be possible for them to borrow money upon the security of it. A provision had been put in Clause 4 that the Association should have power to borrow money. They could not borrow it upon the rates because they had no power to raise any, and the only security, he presumed, was the money which would come to them from the Volunteer Force. In the case of the drill halls under the Military Loans Act the remainder was vested in the right hon. Gentleman, and therefore there would not be any security at all.

MR. HALDANE was understood to say that there would be a great deal of property upon which the associations would not be able to borrow money without the leave of the Army Council, but there would in the ordinary course of things be some property which they possessed, not affected by trusts, upon which they would be able to borrow money.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, to leave out all after the word 'unit' to the end of the subsection, and insert the words 'so however that all property so transferred, shall as from the date of the transfer be held by the association for the benefit in like manner of the corresponding unit of the Territorial Force or for such other purposes as the association, with the consent of such corresponding unit, to be ascertained in the prescribed manner, shall direct; and any question which may arise as to whether any property is transferred to an association, or as to the trusts or purposes upon or for which it is or ought to be held, shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," put, and agreed to.

Proposed words there inserted.

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 29 :—

*MR. ASHLEY moved the omission of subsection (1) which seemed to him far the most important part of the Bill, as it dealt with that portion of our land forces which was most likely to be used in the future, and enabled the Government to enlist men into the Reserve who would never serve in the Regular Army and make them special Reservists. There was no question which so vitally affected the future of the Regular Army. We had not had an invasion of this country for many hundreds of years, but in all the wars in which we had taken part during those years our Regular land forces had been engaged. It was not in the past our Volunteers who had been engaged, but our Regular Forces, and in all probability it was those forces who would be engaged in the future. Therefore this change as to special reservists was one of the most important which the Bill made in our Army system and one of the most momentous which had been made for a number of years. It must be remembered that this proposal as to special reservists was made concurrently with a reduction of the Army by 20,000 men and such a step must proportionately reduce the first class Army reserve. During the last administration the object was to increase as far as possible the first class Army reserve, but they now had before them a direct reversal of that policy, because it could not be denied that if the establishment was smaller, the length of service longer, and the units fewer, we could not get the same amount of reserves. A good many untrained reservists were to be invited to enlist. They were to come in at seventeen, be trained till they were twenty, and then be sent out to form the backbone of His Majesty's battalions when engaged in war. It was a most revolutionary proceeding. In describing the Militia in February last the right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the fact that that force was composed of youths of seventeen years of age, and that they could not be sent to the front until they were twenty. That he said was a deplorable state of things. Now however he proposed to set up third battalions composed of that very material which would be useless for war purposes. If the circumstances were not tragic they would be laughable. These boys would be formed into battalions under officers and non-commissioned officers under whom they would not serve in time of war. They would not be battalions but depots—if they liked, glorified depots under another name—the men enlisted would be the men who were now standing at street corners waiting for odd jobs, and would not belong to the class of men like telegraphists, medical officers, transport drivers and others who had to discharge the same duties in times of war that they did in times of peace. The present first class Army Reservist was usually a man of from twenty-five to thirty years of age and of good physique, because he was the survival of all those who had joined the Army. He had served abroad and had often gone through active service. He had knocked about the world and was imbued with all those traditions for which the British Army was celebrated. He loved his regiment as a sailor loved his ship; he served under the same officers in war as he served under in peace and with the comrades with whom he had been trained in the past.

For such men the right hon. Gentleman was going to substitute, or supplement them by, youths of seventeen with seven months training who could not be sent abroad until they were twenty and would be useless till then. And these were the men who were to stiffen a battalion going on active service. What regimental traditions would these men have? They would not serve under the same officers or with the comrades with whom they had trained. He did not think either the House or the country sufficiently realised the gravity of the proposals made by the right hon. Gentleman. He thought it was almost a crime against the Army and the officers, non commissioned officers and men, that when they went to fight the battles of their country they should have, instead of men considerably older than themselves to raise the standard and physique of the regiment and lend it a hand, these waifs and strays to stiffen the battalion. After all was said and done, was not quality better than quantity? He himself, if he were in command of a battalion, would rather have twenty-five of the old first class Army Reserve than 100 of the right hon. Gentleman's special reservists. He felt very strongly on the matter and could not let the debate pass without raising his voice against what he regarded as a wrong and pernicious proposal. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed

"In page 20, line 31, to leave out Subsection (1)."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'and' in page 20, line 34, stand part of the clause."

MR. HALDANE said the hon. Member had spoken as though they had it in contemplation to substitute for the Reserve properly so-called the men of these training battalions. They had never proposed anything of the kind. The battalions would be mobilised with their own reserves. How the eventual normal strength of the Reserve, about 115,000, was arrived at, was made luminously clear in an article by the military correspondent of *The Times* last Wednesday. He admitted that they had made various changes in the terms of service, and, of course, they could not have as large a Reserve as under the three years system; but the three years system had broken down completely. It was, perhaps, the most dreadful blunder that had been made in recent years. It had gone as a principle; there were no three years service men in the Infantry of the Line. [Mr. ASHLEY: The Guards.] They had got rid of it in the Infantry of the Line. The Reserve they asked for was sufficient to mobilise a battalion and to leave something over. That being so, what was it that the men in these third battalions were wanted for? The hon. Member assumed that they were going out as units. They were not; nothing of the sort had ever been suggested. The only reason why they took young men of seventeen was that they might get the men who were now got in the Militia, and who went through the Militia to the Line. They would take them from that age and upwards in order to get a stream of recruits for the Line. They would prefer to take men of nineteen or twenty for training, and would try to take them at an age not less than eighteen. The third battalions did not exist for the purpose of going out as units; they existed simply for the purposes of drafts to provide for the wastage of war. It was no objection that a man enlisted in the training battalion when of tender years, for he was not used until he became of the proper age. The men of the training battalion were not intended to go out into the first line at the commencement of war; that was the function of the Reserve brought out at mobilisation. The men who went out from the training battalion would be men selected from that establishment, who were of sufficient age to go out as drafts to supply wastage. The Japanese military authorities supplied their wastage from drafts who had sometimes had three months' training and sometimes less, and they found it answered very well so long as they got drafts. To send out men of immature age was under any circumstances foolish, but as he had explained, such youths were taken in order to provide the machinery for drafts. The present condition of the Line was one of confusion. The Militia Reserve was destroyed in 1901, and no machinery was then supplied for providing drafts. What was the proposition of the right hon. Member for Croydon? He was going to create trained Reservists, but what sort of men were to go into it? Under the Government's system the men of the Reserve who mobilised the battalions were highly trained men who had served with the colours; but the right hon. Gentleman proposed to abolish Reserves and depots, and to do all the dreadful things of which the hon. Member had spoken. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to substitute for a large portion of the high-class Reserve which we had at present, and which the Government meant to keep, men who had two years training. They, however, did not propose to disturb the function of the Reserve, nor to abolish Reserves; what they did was to fill up a gap that had existed up to now in the organisation of our forces in consequence of there being no machinery for providing drafts. That was the primary and only purpose of the organisation to which this part of the Bill referred.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was glad that this was one of the portions of the Bill that the Committee was allowed to discuss, because in his opinion the clause which abolished the Militia was the most important in the Bill. He had hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would have been able to give more comfort and satisfaction to the Committee than he had. This part of the Bill affected the fighting portion of the Army. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the clause was lucid, but it was not very lucid to him. It dealt with three distinct classes of Reservists. He was in the company of twelve very competent persons not long ago, and they were absolutely divided in opinion as to what the clause really referred to. There were three classes of Reservists who came within the purview of the clause. There were those who, enlisting in the Territorial Army, enlisted on a special basis, received a special training, and passed to a special branch of the Army in time of war. In the second place, there were the men who were now serving as special Reservists in the Army, and were called to form a striking force in the case of small wars. Lastly, there were the Reservists who, by the Bill they were now discussing, formed the special contingent. He proposed to discuss the question of the third class of Reservists. The right hon. Gentleman had criticised his hon. friend, thinking he had made the statement that these Reservists were to act as units. He did not think his hon. friend had made any such statement, and he himself had certainly never done so. On the contrary, he thought the gravamen of their charge against the Bill was that there would be no units, and that it would actually destroy potential units by the creation of a force which could never be embodied in units until it was in the presence of the enemy.

It was absolutely impossible to discuss the clause without taking into consideration something which did not appear in it. Why was the clause necessary at all? It was necessary because the War Office knew perfectly well that in time of war the Army Reserve would be totally inadequate for the purpose of a great war. He maintained that what he had stated with regard to the Reserve, if it erred at all, erred on the side of moderation. They were now preparing, with their eyes open, for a state of things more serious than confronted the country in 1899. In that year the Army was mobilised. It was not mobilised for a great European War. The losses in the South African War were absolutely nothing to the losses which would unfortunately take place in great conflicts between large bodies of men armed with all the modern weapons. It was notorious, and it was the basis of all the efforts made by Army reformers, that the Reserve in the South African War was absolutely inadequate for the primary purpose for which Reserves were intended, that of bringing fighting battalions up to their war strength. That was not an assertion of his; it was a fact which came out before the War Commission, and which was recorded in a whole series of official publications. The regiments were mobilised, and many of the battalions actually went out 200 short, after taking every Reservist they could get. When the matter was brought to the right hon. Gentleman's attention, what did he say? He gave a strange explanation, which to his mind only made the matter more obscure. He said that nineteen of these battalions had already sent their Indian drafts. What did that teach? It taught them that if the mobilisation had taken place in March instead of October, every single battalion would have sent its Indian drafts, and that every single battalion would have been 200, 300, and in some cases 400 short of the number of men necessary to enable them to go to war at all. At that time the circumstances were very peculiar. India was not making great demands on this country for drafts; on the contrary, on the outbreak of the war the authorities stopped sending drafts to India, and they even withdrew men from India. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that in any war such as they contemplated the chances were that India would be making very great demands for reinforcements. Yet they were asked to reproduce not merely a state of things as bad as was experienced in 1899, but a state of things much worse. The right hon. Gentleman had challenged his statement that the Reserve would be greatly reduced. He still maintained that it inevitably would be. He would call attention to two arguments which had been used to refute what he had said on this point. It had been said in the first place that the Army Reserve would be greatly increased because there had been additions to the Army outside the Infantry. That was perfectly true as far as it went. Those additions which were made by the right hon. Gentleman, the Army Service Corps and the Army Medical Corps and other auxiliary branches of the Army, would produce a very small addition to the Army Reserve. Apart from that, they were told that the Army Reserve would be increased, because the number of extensions in the Army was decreasing. What did that mean? That was an excuse; it was nothing but simply an excuse. In the first place, the extensions had not diminished; on the contrary they had increased very heavily, until last year they were heavier than they had been for many years past. To go back to his original proposition, which had not been assailed, and which never would be assailed, they could not get a larger Infantry Reserve by taking off eight battalions from the Infantry, two battalions from the Guards, and reducing all the Home battalions by thirty men. That was not possible. Still less was it possible that, when they had made all these reductions, that they could have an Infantry Reserve nearly 8,000 larger than they had under the old state of things. He had ventured once before to refer to this matter in the House, and he then stated that there were two Returns emanating from the War Office, and both signed by the same actuary. He could have understood it had the right hon. Gentleman at once said that there was a discrepancy between those two Returns, owing to their having been founded on different bases. But that was not what happened. He did not believe the right hon. Gentleman had ever seen the Returns before, but he suggested that those Returns differed in this respect, that the point dealt only with battalions at Home, and dealt with nine years instead of twelve years enlistment. He did not know why these suggestions were made to the House; on the face of the documents, it apparently was not so. Undoubtedly if those suggestions were true they would seriously affect the calculations. But they were both wrong. He had been happily able to give his authority at the moment, and what he had stated was entirely correct. Therefore, they had the fact that the calculations made in 1905 were repeated in 1907 on the same basis, with the exception that the material for making the Reserve in 1907 was much less than in 1905. The excess of Infantry alone as shown in the later return was over 7,000. He had only had one explanation vouchsafed to him, and he challenged the right hon. Gentleman to sustain that explanation. It was no explanation at all, and he challenged the right hon. Gentleman to say that it had any validity whatever in this matter. It was perfectly true that if they had a larger number of men who were serving seven years, who took their discharge into the Reserve, and did not extend, the Reserve would be *pro tanto* increased, and the right hon. Gentleman's explanation would be to some extent justified. But even if that were true, the whole question would not be affected by 500 men one way or the other. The facts, however, were not as the right hon. Gentleman had supposed. The extensions were not decreasing, they were increasing, and therefore he had been compelled, in self-defence, to repeat his conclusion, a very simple one by itself, that they were preparing smaller Reserves for the Infantry and the Regular Army than they had in 1899. They were also reducing the Reserve of the Guards. They knew how prolific the Guards were in producing Reserves. Perhaps hon. Members hardly realised that two battalions of the Guards produced 1,900 men as Reserves, and that the Reserve was capable of fitting up the whole Regiment to full war strength, and leaving a margin of over 1,000 men. If they reduced the battalions of Guards they seriously affected the Reserve; and when they destroyed eight battalions of Infantry they still further reduced the Reserve. He had given the result of the calculations, and he submitted that the fighting strength of the Reserve, after making the requisite reductions for Infantry of the Line, would not exceed, on classes A, B and D, 50,000 men. That was a very important fact, if true. It was a fact so important that it ought to be tested thoroughly from beginning to end to ascertain whether it was or was not the case, because, if it were the case, the state of things would be as in 1899, only very much worse. That was why they had the proposal now to supplement the Reserve with this special contingent. The right hon. Gentleman in justification of his proposal had referred to the fact that the Japanese had sent a large number of men of three months' service only as drafts to their Army. Would it not have been a good deal better if the right hon. Gentleman had added the rest of the story? The Japanese who were sent to the front were men who had been two years in training under officers of the Regular Army, and they were all men of over twenty years of age. During the Russo-Japanese War some of the Reserves sent out were in many cases used as drafts into different regiments. It was true that a certain number of men were sent with a very small amount of training. Why? Because the Japanese thought that was a proper thing to do, and because they desired to do it? Not at all. It was simply due to the fact that the Japanese system was a comparatively new one, and that there were men in the Reserves who had not passed the initial stage of training for the Army. But that lesson was no lesson for us, and the right hon. Gentleman should have gone a little further and said that the Japanese were contented with the arrangement. It was only under the compulsion of circumstances that they allowed any of these men to go to the front, and for the future the whole of the Japanese army would receive this tremendous disciplinary instruction for two years in the ranks of the Regular Army and in the Reserve. The right hon. Gentleman said something about what the late Government had done in respect of the provision of a Reserve and the raising of men with two years' training. The training proposed was that which had been recommended by every soldier, and was, moreover, that which was given to every European Army without exception, and there were hundreds of these men in the Reserve who had received this training up to the present time. There was definite and specific training, and when the right hon. Gentleman spoke of men being unfit to serve in the ranks when they had only had two years training he was saying something which was remarkably incompatible with what he had asked the Committee to do under this scheme. Moreover, there was no intention of discharging men into the Reserve and of allowing them to remain without training; on the contrary, the training was specifically provided for. But if the men with two years training with the colours and under their own officers were unfit to serve in the Reserve at the age of twenty, how much more unfit would boys be who were enlisted at the age of seventeen and discharged straightway into the gutter, to be taken at the end of two or three years to serve in the Regular Army? What was this Reserve going to be? The right hon. Gentleman said that he would take any age he could get, and he had told the Committee that he proposed to take into this contingent the men who now went into the Militia. The Committee knew exactly what these men were like. They could be divided into two categories—(1) Men capable of going into the Line; and (2) men who were not capable of entering it. But the Line would make a demand upon these boys to the extent of 12,000 or 13,000 a year; so that out of 28,000 boys recruited for the Militia at least 12,000 over eighteen years must be taken from the contingent. It was obvious, therefore, that the bulk of the special contingent must be boys between seventeen and eighteen years of age. What was to happen then? These boys went into the depots at the age of seventeen. In some cases seventy per cent. of the boys were only waiting their opportunity to pass from the depots into the Line. They were without moral or physical training, and they were not in any sense the material of which any Army could be composed. Two out of three of these boys died out of the Army before they came to the period when a man was qualified to enter the Reserve. They died out on being tested by the realities of the Army service—the hardships, the trials of campaigning, and marching. But after two months training in the depots these new Reservists were to be turned adrift, with no occupation, no help, receiving sixpence a day, or just enough to maintain themselves as loafers. At the end of a year, or a year and a half, they came back to the depot and remained for another four months. When they came back they found a new set of comrades, and having got six months training in two parts, they would be discharged. They were taken away from the influence of the officers, from association with their comrades; they never saw their regiments or their officers, and yet they were supposed to be first-class Reservists for the British Army. Within three months of the opening of any war the Infantry Reserve of the Army would be exhausted, and these boys would have to go to the front; nay, they would have to go into the ranks the moment mobilisation was decided upon. Battalion after battalion was sent out short in 1899, some as much as 200 men short. Under this scheme the War Office were putting these boys to bear the brunt of battle alongside the Regular troops on the very day war was declared. We had learned many lessons on this subject. In 1899, 80,000 or 90,000 boys were left behind because they were unfit to take their places in the ranks. They were attached by the thousand to the Militia. It was right to leave the boys behind, because they were unfit by every rule of common sense and medical hygiene to go to the front. But what happened to them? They were actually sent to the front to the number of 18,000 with the Militia battalions to which they were attached. That was the kind of risk we were now running again, and the time might come when that risk would be much greater than in 1899. The right hon. Gentleman had never been able to give information as to what proportion of those boys was likely to be available at any time. The total number was 72,000, including the Irish Militia. He had gone carefully into these figures, and he maintained that they stood. These boys as a rule would be enlisted between seventeen and eighteen, and they would be for one, two, or two and a half years drawing pay as soldiers of the Crown, and supposed to be part of the strength of the Army when they were absolutely forbidden by the regulations of the Army from taking part in any war. He wanted to know the proportion of the 72,000 who would be between seventeen and twenty, because, when they calculated on this Reserve, he said that such a reserve was never heard of in any other country. In the case of the German and the French armies the reserve could be called upon immediately, and the reserves could go the front. He would not dogmatise on the subject, as he had not the figures before him, but he ventured to suggest that the probability was that not fifty per cent. of these boys would be allowed to go to the front with their battalions. They would be here paying for a nominal reserve of 72,000, of which only 36,000 would be able to render the very modest services which the right hon. Gentleman expected. Was that common sense? Ought they to be told that this was a reserve on which they could rely in the event of war? The Irish Militia had been included in this force. That seemed to him another example of the extraordinary make-believe of the whole Bill. Why were eight battalions of the Irish Militia to be kept for this purpose? They would, he supposed, guard the lines of communication, reinforce the garrisons at Malta or Gibraltar. Why? Was it on military grounds that they were selected? Was it because they were specially good battalions, full of officers and full of men? Was it because their numbers were particularly large? It was a piece of pure political expediency, and nothing else. The scheme would not fit Ireland. The Government were playing a game with regard to the Irish Militia battalions. It was unthinkable, in the case of war, that they should be compelled to rely upon the accident whether eight Irish Militia battalions, selected by a series of accidents, would be able to undertake the duty to be placed upon them. He thought it really approached the bounds of farce. He had talked to many officers about this special contingent, for he confessed it was the part of the whole scheme in the Bill which interested him most. He had asked them how they would like to lead these men in war, but he had not found one who would care to do so. At the time of the Crimean War we were not able to rely on the streams of patriotism which the right hon. Gentleman was relying on. At the end of two and a half years fighting we had 15,000 foreigners paid as British soldiers camped on Chobham Common.

MR. HALDANE said we had not then the Cardwell system.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was sure that interruption meant something to the right hon. Gentleman, but it did not mean anything to him. What had the Cardwell system to do with the question whether they could rely on streams of patriotism to make up the shortage of the Regular Army in the Crimean War? We were then paying 15,000 Germans and Swiss to play at being British soldiers here in England. That was a lesson of some value, which should be remembered when considering this scheme. We never kept up an Army of 40,000 in the field, but we went into the open market and tried to buy up boys. We bought up a certain number of boys and sent them out, but they were unsatisfactory as to training. What happened? It was a melancholy story. Those boys could not be got out of the trenches in front of the Redan, and gave no support to the gallant men who formed the forlorn hopes. Was it any blame to the boys? He supposed that no boys in the world would have behaved very differently, looking to their physique and moral standard. The things which they did were not because of their lack of good will. The qualities which went to make up a soldier came from the power to face death in an emergency; they came from a variety of reasons which went to make up a human soul in time of war. He asked if that was to go entirely disregarded by the right hon. Gentleman. He submitted to the Committee that he had made out a *prima facie* case. He thought he had proved, in the first place, that even on the most sanguine estimate the Infantry Reserve would be insufficient. It would be totally insufficient to mobilise the Army. Whether that was so or not, it would be absolutely insufficient to keep it in the field, and then would come the time when we should have to fall back on two sources of reinforcement. We should have to fall back on the Territorial Army which had been discussed for the past few days. Who for a moment pretended that we were going to get out of the Territorial Army the necessary reinforcements for the Army in the field in a modern war? The other source of reinforcement would be the boys of the special contingent. All information as to that contingent had been refused to the Committee up to the present moment. They did not know the estimate of the numbers, they did not know where they were coming from, or how many were to be available for the purposes of war. If there were any hon. Members who were not satisfied with the accuracy of what he had said, they could easily by inquiry find out that it was true. He asked them to inquire, so that they might be prevented from relying on this force in time of war. The matter was deadly serious. The authorities might play with troops at home, but they could not afford to play with the Army they had to fight with in time of war. The matter was all the more serious, because, in his belief, they were doing almost irreparable harm by depriving themselves of one adjunct of the Regular Army which had stood the country in good stead in the past, and might be made to serve them again well in the future—he meant the Militia. He sincerely trusted hon. Members would refuse to pass this clause, or, if they did, would do all in their power to repair the evil which he much feared must result.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER hoped the Secretary of State would see his way to modify this clause. While he admitted that there would be enormous advantage in being able to embody a large number of men when war came, he thought there was some danger under the proposed new system in regard to the training of recruits. They were to be trained at depots under officers and non-commissioned officers whom they would not see again. He looked upon the special contingent clause of the Bill as somewhat dangerous, not only in respect of drafts for the Regular Army, but in respect of the whole military system throughout the country. Hon. Members might say that he was prejudiced in favour of the Militia, with which he had been a long time connected. He had recently seen the Militia and the Regular troops working together on Salisbury Plain, and he was convinced of the great advantage the country had enjoyed in the past from being able to reinforce the Regular Army by drafts from the Militia. It was the historical force from which drafts had been drawn. The Army was reinforced by Militia drafts at Agincourt, in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo. The men under this new scheme would only have the training in the barrack yard, or at most a little while on Salisbury Plain. They would not have the training of men who had been taught to look up to their officers, and who realised that they were part of a vast organisation in which each soldier felt that on his obedience to orders the fortunes of a whole brigade or division might depend. He did not attach the same importance as hon. Gentlemen opposite to the name Militia, or to the historical traditions which attached to it; but he thought the organisation of men in fighting ought to be that in which they were trained. When they had their recruits and got them trained, they ought to be able to take them with their regimental officers as a whole, instead of in drafts, because he thought it likely that in time of war the battalions would be wanted, not merely as drafts, but to form actual brigades, and battalions would be utterly useless unless the officers and non-commissioned officers knew each other. He hoped the men who formed third battalions would be trained as battalions, and as they would have been if they had been Militia. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman himself would consider whether it was possible to retain the old battalions of the Militia and make them into the third battalions which the right hon. Member for Croydon had called the special contingents. He hoped that those men who were to form the third battalions would be trained as battalions, as they would have been if they had been in the Militia. He did not think it was necessary to keep to the old name of the Militia or of the old battalions. He knew that it was not the senior officers who would be wanting. There were lots of old colonels who had served their time in the Army; and at present the Militia produced an enormous number of company officers, although that force could do with a great many more. They had been trained as Militia officers. He was not saying that they were good officers, but they were better than officers who had not been trained at all. More than half of the officers he had talked to would not join the Territorial Army, and he thought it would be a great pity if so many officers were lost. He did not think that they would lose the men who formerly joined the Militia. Then as to the establishment of the special Reservists, if they were trained only for six months they would be inefficient as Reservists, because, for one reason, they would go to the front with officers they did not know. He hoped the battalion system would be kept up. He was sure that if the system were tried in one or two counties, and if the Reservists so trained were to join the Regular Army, it would be found how inefficient they would be. He knew that the Duke of Wellington did not think much of the Militia, but in those days the Militia were not trained so well as they had been in recent years. The Militia, however, had always been useful for providing drafts to the Regular Army. He did not see how the opinion of Commanding Officers should interfere with that of the country. When the country demanded drafts for the Regular Army, it was the duty of the Militia to supply them. He hoped that the training would not be confined to two, four, or six months after the outbreak of war, but that it would be continued for a month every year, and that the Reservists would not be trained in depots, but in battalions.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT said that the importance of this clause had been in no way exaggerated by the right hon. Member for Croydon. He agreed, in the main, with the observations of the hon. Member for the Lichfield Division, who was an expert on this branch of the subject, and whose views ought to have considerable weight with the Secretary of State for War. He himself did not think that the Militia colonels ever made any objection to the Militia being liable, and to the Militia units being made liable, for service abroad. What they objected to was being required to furnish all their best men at a time of crisis as drafts for the benefit of the Regular Army. He objected to the depot system of training the Reservists. It would involve a very large expenditure of public money if the depots were to be made capable of training even 250 men. What efficient training could be given to a battalion of 250 men? It would be absolutely useless. There would be casualities, guard duties, orderlies, servants, and the available strength for training could only be at most 150 to 200 men. It was not at all likely that good officers from the Regular Army could be got to enter that service, which would be extremely irksome. The only pleasure in instruction to a good officer was to see the results of that instruction; but if those officers were going to be nothing but drill sergeants, and never to see their men again, they would be little inclined to take a real interest in them. The depot system had always been a failure. He quite sympathised with the view of the Secretary of State for War as to the necessity of his being able to lay his hands on a large number of men to serve abroad; but why was the organisation of the Militia to be put into the melting pot? Why should the right hon. Gentleman go in for this system of special reservists? There would be no *esprit-de-corps* amongst them; the officers would not know their men, who would do their duty in the most perfunctory manner they possibly could. He understood that an experiment of the scheme was to be tried in the counties of Lancashire and Northamptonshire; if so how long would it be before this branch of the Territorial Force was established? He put it, at the minimum, at ten years. If any communications had passed between the right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Member for Lichfield, the Committee should be taken into his confidence in regard to this question of the special reservist battalions. He also urged the right hon. Gentleman to reply in detail to the observations of the right hon. Member for Croydon, who spoke with great authority and knowledge on this difficult and complex problem. The observations which had fallen from hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House, as well as from the Opposition, showed that the Committee, as a whole, felt that they were entitled to a more explicit declaration than they had yet received from the Secretary of State.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E) said he did not propose to follow the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon into all the figures and statistics which he laid before the Committee; but he wanted to answer what he believed to be the gravamen of his charge against this clause, and to reply to the principle involved in it. He thought everyone who had spoken that evening ignored the reason why they were bound to have such a clause as this. If the Committee would accept for a moment the principle that they must have a system of special Reservists, they would see, he thought, why the clause was necessary. Under the Reserve Forces Act, 1890, men might be enlisted and enter the Reserve without any term of practical Army service. At the present moment a man could not be admitted for training into the Reserve without his first enlisting in the Army, and this clause would enable them to take the special Reservist and pass him at once into the Reserve Force, without going through the farce of first making him a Regular soldier. The clause was absolutely necessary in order to create the class of special Reservists. The pith of the speech of the right hon. Member for Croydon was that the proposal of his right hon. friend would leave the Army with a smaller number of Regular Reservists than were found available at the outbreak of the South African war. At the present moment the calculation of his right hon. friend, which had been very carefully made, and was supported by that most acute critic, the military correspondent of *The Times*, was that the Reserve would number about 115,000. When the war broke out in 1899 there were at the outside about 80,000 Reservists, and that number failed to bring all the battalions up to war strength. In some regiments there were not enough, and in others there were too many, and there was no power to transfer from one corps to another. In a very carefully prepared memorandum the right hon. Gentleman, when Secretary for War in 1905–6, told them that the condition of the Militia was very unsatisfactory, and said it would in some cases be necessary to reduce units, and that in others the only possible course would be to amalgamate units, getting rid of about one half of the Militia units. If the Militia was to be used as a purely draft-producing force, it would never be able to go abroad in the form of units, and it mattered very little whether it was called Militia or training battalions. It was true that the old Militia Reserve produced at the outbreak of the war 28,000, but the special contingent of his right hon. friend would produce about 33,000, and the amount of training which they would have would be very nearly, if not quite, as large as that of the old Militia reserve. What was the position? The Militia, as now enlisted, went out for training for eighty-four days, but the special reservists would go out for practically twice that time, although it was true that in subsequent years the period of training was reduced. In this they were following the example of the Swiss Army. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had dwelt at considerable length on the supplies of reserves. He would point out that under the proposals of his right hon. friend sixty-six battalions would be mobilised, producing a force of about 160,000 men. No proposal to mobilise so large a striking force was ever contemplated before. There would be no more of that hurrying immature men to the front, and he hoped that those members of the Committee who looked at the question from an impartial point of view would not forget the extraordinary advantages to be gained from the great increase in the striking force.

Sir GILBERT PARKER said those who had listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had been greatly impressed by the tragic seriousness of this part of the Bill, and he wondered what attitude the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken would have taken if he had been sitting on that side of the House. The other day the hon. Gentleman used some rather contemptuous terms with regard to certain remarks he had made in reference to a reform of the Militia. But there opposite to him sat a Militia reformer in the person of the hon. Gentleman himself, who evidently believed in the reform of that force. The hon. Gentleman had suggested that his right hon. friend had stated that he himself would have reformed the Militia, and indicated in what way he would have reformed it. He did not think his right hon. friend did anything of the kind. He had turned up an admirable article written two years ago by the hon. Gentleman on the question of how the Militia could be reformed, and how the Militia and the Rifle Brigade could be increased by 40 per cent. if certain suggestions were adopted. Throughout these debates, however, the hon. Gentleman had done nothing but pour contempt upon all their suggestions as to the reform of the Militia.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said that in what he stated about the Militia he was quoting from a memorandum issued by the Secretary of State for War.

Sir GILBERT PARKER said that that might be so, but the hon. Gentleman did not quote himself as one who had taken considerable part in Army debates. His right hon. friend had expressed no intention to abolish the Militia, although he had pointed out the weakness of the fòrce, as it was his duty to do when he was War Minister. It was now, however, proposed by the present Secretary for War to wipe out the Militia, and instead to put in its place this new force.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I did not say so.

Sir GILBERT PARKER said it appeared from the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that the Government proposed to take their men from a training battalion, and so provide a regular scheme of drafts for the Army in time of war. But what different scheme of drafts? The men were taken between seventeen and twenty years of age to provide those drafts. Was not that the whole point? To his mind the basis of the whole scheme was wrong. The training battalions had no prestige, no traditions, and nothing which would attract men to them, and even after they had been trained they would have no feeling about them. He had made a note of two or three points which struck him as to these training battalions as distinguished from the Militia. The men would not be trained near their homes, or in special battalions, and they would not have any service together to give them cohesion and smooth working as arose under the system of training adopted by the Militia. In the training battalions there would be no comradeship and no traditions. There was no *esprit de corps* and there was no common danger or service with their colleagues which would draw the men together. The men would be men from a training battalion and nothing more. There was no idea of regimental prestige or of attachment to the colours and none of the allurements of a march-out as a body of men attached to the same force. They could not disregard all these things which had gone to make up a body having traditions which were loved. Probably the best class of young men who joined the Militia had been attracted in the first instance by outside show, but there would be nothing of that sort; moreover, outside show had a power to make a man. He ventured to say that three-fourths of the "corner boys" who enlisted in the Militia had no idea of patriotism or national service. They were after a job, and this was a job which allured them from certain aspects. It was after they had enlisted in the Militia that there grew up in the minds of the men some conception of what the game was and what soldiering meant to himself, his fellow countrymen, and the nation. There was no Militiaman who had been long in the service who did not feel that the Militia did not exist alone, but as a part of a machine under the control of the officers, the non-commissioned officers and the colonel, who was to the young soldier a kind of demi-god. All those qualities which went to make up a soldier were found in the Militia to a far greater degree than would the case in special contingent. His hon. and gallant friend had said it would take ten years to produce the Army which the Secretary of State for War was looking for, and the right hon. Gentleman had expressed the same opinion himself. He always read the right hon. Gentleman's speeches with admiration, because he had a way of protecting himself by means of glittering generalities which attracted for the moment but conveyed no idea to the mind of the listener. The right hon. Gentleman often relied upon a fine theatrical and sometimes a dramatic speech. For instance, the right hon. Gentleman had said he had been thinking for a year, and a year was not sufficient to deal with the great problem of the British Army, nor ten years,—indeed he thought twenty-five years could not effectively solve that great problem. For himself he thought the Bill proved that very conclusively, and this part of the Bill more clearly than any other, because it was just on this clause that the Bill broke down. With the hon. Member for Lichfield he believed that the Militia could have been reformed and could have supplied effective drafts, but instead of reforming it the right hon. Gentleman offered them this special contingent composed of young men seventeen years of age who could not provide efficient drafts nor be sent abroad. This proposal would lead to the lowest class of men in point of physique and citizenship joining the special Reserve because they were driven to it by want. A totally different class of men would thus be passed into the Reserve, and when they went to the front they would go really as infants in training for war, and what would be left would be the Territorial Army. If war broke out on the frontiers of India it would not be only the 160,000 men that would be wanted. Before six months they would want not only the Reservists but every man of the Territorial Army. In the event of a big war, moreover, not only need the entire Army but 200,000 or 300,000 Volunteers would be needed as well. The Japanese to face the Russians had to have 750,000 men in the first eight months of the war. Clause 29 was to his mind the whole crux of the Bill, and under it the Secretary for War would have a class of Reservists such as had never been used in the past, and which after one experience would never be used again.

*MAJOR DUNNE (Walsall) wished to call the attention of the Committee to one aspect of the Special Contingent battalions which had received scarcely any notice, viz., their relation to what were now known as provisional battalions. He happened to be during the whole of the South African War employed on the General Staff of the Aldershot District. He might tell the Committee that the work of these provisional battalions was extremely unsatisfactory. In the exigencies of the campaign there was considerable difficulty in regard to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. There was continual change going on in connection with the battalions. They were not there a month, not even a week, before they were sent off to the seat of war, and their place would be taken by Militia officers, and in some cases by Volunteer officers; in a very large number of cases there were Reserve officers. The result of it was that the training was very inadequate, and the whole object for which they were sent abroad was defeated. What they had especially to contend with was the very bad interior arrangements of the battalions. He knew that in certainly one battalion the public service lost considerable sums of money simply because of their inability to bring home responsibility for the maladministration of the different companies of these battalions to any officer. As soon as they tried to bring home responsibility to any officer probably he had already left for the seat of war. It was never possible to bring home to any one the loss on the accounts of a company, owing to the continual changes. He welcomed the special contingents, or third battalions as he preferred to call them, under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. They would provide a permanent organisation which would take all the masses of recruits who would undoubtedly come forward under the enthusiasm of war; they would get them from the depot and get them fully enrolled in the third battalions. He thought that there would be a very ample opportunity of training these men, who were of the same standard of training as the old Militia Reserve. They would be under permanent officers in charge of the different companies forming the battalions. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would allow him to make one suggestion, or give him one warning in connection with the establishment of the third battalions. Four captains were to be put in command of the companies forming the third battalions, and his suggestion was they should permanently remain in command of their companies. He would also suggest that the colour-sergeants should also remain permanently. He had no doubt that in time of war much pressure would be brought to bear on the Secretary for War to allow these officers to go out to the seat of war. They all knew that when war broke out every soldier worthy the name of soldier was anxious to go out. But it should be clearly established that the officers in command of these companies were to remain permanently in command of their companies. In that way they would be of real service. Undoubtedly, it would be an invidious duty, and none of the officers would like it. If, however, it was shown that the duty which they performed was of great advantage to their country, though the situation was unpleasant, they would see that they were doing a great and good work here, and he thought that it should have its distinctions and rewards, as did the work of their more fortunate brother officers in the field. If such distinctions were conferred, he thought that they would get the right sort of officers to remain behind. He hoped that the War Office would heartily recognise the sacrifice that these officers and non-commissioned officers would make in retaining permanently command of the companies of these battalions, while other more fortunate officers were at the seat of war.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY asked the Secretary of State for War to realise what sort of officer he was likely to get if he adopted the suggestion which had just been made. The officer was to train the men and put spirit into them, and then he was to say to them, "I am not going out myself. I will teach you how to advance and attack, but I am not going out to advance and attack." Training of that sort would not be worth its salt; he did not admire it at all. He could not quite follow the hon. Gentleman in his idea as to the advantage that would accrue to the recruits in joining the third battalions of their own regiments. The third battalions were not going to be third battalions of their regiments. They would be a conglomerate mass of men coming from one regiment and another; they would not be trained by any officer attached to any particular regiment at all; and everything that was of value in a regiment would be remarkably absent in their training. He certainly agreed that the clause had for many of them, certainly for those who were or had been regular officers, a more intense interest than any other clause in the Bill. If the country would only recognise that all these schemes were not worth consideration, unless they led up to the effectual reinforcement of that part of the Army which had to do the fighting abroad, it would better realise what was required. All the rest was blether and nonsense and not worth wasting time about. It was in regard to that provision that the scheme unfortunately broke down. He asked the Committee to realise how far that essential purpose was being met by the provisions of this clause. War on a large scale, and not on a small scale, was the essential fact before them. There were now no long wars. The enemy could not be persuaded to play the game according to rules laid down, it could not be postulated that there should be six months' notice and a large amount of warning before war broke out. If this scheme were adopted, on the sudden outbreak of war on a large scale the War Office would have to make provision for the mobilisation of the whole fighting line. Then they had to test the scheme by examining how far it would support that fighting line in action. What had they got? They would mobilise the 160,000 men, and then they would take every single man of the first class Army Reserve, made up of men effectively trained with the regiment, who might be relied on to do their work well and to maintain to the full the fighting efficiency of the various battalions to which they were sent. But it should be remembered that even the men of the first-class Army Reserve were a little time before they fused absolutely with the other elements of the regiment. He acknowledged that they were good stuff, and rapidly became moulded into first-rate soldiers, as good as any they could have for their purposes. Let not hon. Members exaggerate or think that any men who were not fresh from training were as good as men fresh from training; they were not so good for the purpose of endurance or discipline. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he was to have the use of a number of his battalions; were they going to be an efficient part of his Reserve; was he still going to get a larger Reserve with a smaller amount of material?

MR. HALDANE: It will be larger than it was.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman did not make his machine any larger to produce the supply; the machine was diminished in size, and yet it was said that they were going to have a greater product than the larger machine had been capable of. That was one of the most astonishing things to him, and he could not make it out at present. They had got the first-class Army Reserve, and so far he was satisfied. Then they had to fall back upon the amount of reinforcements provided by the special Reservists. The fact remained that the reserves drawn by these battalions were not going to be very valuable as reserves. They would lack a great portion of the most necessary training of a soldier, and when they were put into the ranks of the fighting force they would be without that which made a first-class Army Reserve valuable. If the authorities relied upon them they would rely on a broken reed. He did not say that, after several months with their comrades, they would not pick up all that was necessary, but that they ought to have all that was requisite when they joined, and they were first called upon to fight. The Committee must recognise that danger would lie in the fact that they might have to face a very severe action with troops a portion of whom were not reliable because they had not been efficiently trained. They did not provide under this Bill that one single man of the Territorial Force need go. Let them assume that the war was unpopular.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I really think we must adhere a little more closely to this clause which deals with special reservists and not with the Territorial Force.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said that when the debates commenced he expected to find himself in agreement with the Secretary of State for War in regard to the Militia. At first he fancied that the right hon. Gentleman was proceeding on the right lines in reducing the Militia, but the whole course of the debate had shown that he was utterly wrong upon that point. In his opinion it would have been much better had the Government taken the Militia as it stood and made them the most effective part of the reinforcing portion of the new Army. The present training of the Militia might not be all they could wish, but it was four times better than that which they were now proposing. Those who were old soldiers were apt to attach far more importance to the training of the men than those who had not served in the

Regular Army. He did not see how they were going to get effective reinforcements on the lines upon which the special Reserves were to be trained. How could they get an effective fighting force if the men had not the essential element of trust in their officers and that loyal spirit which impelled a man to go to the front instead of to the rear? They could not deal with soldiers on logical or mathematical lines; they had to deal with them as human beings affected by certain impulses. The country would be blind to its own interest if it relied on men so trained for forming any valuable portion of the reinforcing force. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would recognise the opinion of those who had probably not been slow in expressing their views behind the scenes. He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not got the full benefit he ought to have got out of the Militia. He hoped the Committee would recognise that unless the Army scheme provided that the fighting line should be reinforced by a sufficient number of trained men the country would be running a very grave danger.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER said that this was one of the most important clauses in the Bill, and upon its maintenance in its entirety depended the whole structure of the scheme of Army organisation proposed by his right hon. friend. The scheme they were discussing depended largely upon the Militia, and it contemplated not the extinguishing of that force, but simply a transformation. That transformation was directed into two channels, the first of which had already been dealt with in a previous clause giving an option to the Militia battalions to transfer themselves bag and baggage to the Territorial Army. He was glad that the Amendments intended to upset that proposal were successfully resisted, and he hoped the Amendment now under consideration which was intended to upset the second channel of transformation would meet with the same result. The second channel was the establishment of these special battalions or draft-producing depots. It had been said that the right hon. Gentleman would not secure from these depots an efficient type of soldier because they would not be constituted under the same organisation as the present Militia. The importance of these depots was confined to securing an adequate number of drafts for the other units. The Militia as units would still exist; but, whereas there were now but some 94,000 Militia available in an emergency, in future there would be the whole 300,000 of the Territorial Army. These draft-producing depots offered a completely new supply for the Army. They were an advance on anything that had been in existence before. These drafts were over and above the present system of draft producing from the Militia and from the first-class Army Reserve into the Regular Army. The depots were purely for draft purposes. If these men were being asked to go out as units under the depot system without battalion discipline there would be some force in the opposition of hon. Members opposite, but as long as the depots were being established for draft-producing purposes there was no strength in their arguments. The present Regular first-class Reserve would be absorbed almost to a man on the outbreak of war upon mobilisation, and these depots would be asked to supply the first drafts of men two or three months after the outbreak of the war. The scheme which his right hon. friend had introduced was entirely new, and was in advance of anything which had been introduced in the Army before. The Committee would remember what happened to the immature ill-trained boys who were sent out to the Crimea. In the case of the South African War the first drafts sent out were the men who had been condemned and discarded by the Regular battalions upon mobilisation. They had been serving in the Regular regiments, but upon mobilisation they were not able to pass the standard. Later in the war the depot centres were filled up by recruits. Fortunately the infantry battalions at the front in South Africa were not called very much into requisition, but if they had been called upon to do much fighting, with the incomplete organisation in this country, great deterioration would have set in. The conclusion which he drew from these previous experiences was that the special reserve depot was a clear profit beyond anything the Army had enjoyed hitherto. It must be better than any substitute which would be casually raised in time of emergency to meet the demands which had not been met by previous arrangements. They must have drafts. The present Militia system would not provide those drafts. They could not be obtained from levies on the reserve of the Regular Army unless they were prepared largely to increase the Regular Army, and that the country was not prepared to do, or to revert to the system of short service of three years which was tried by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon and found to be a hopeless failure, because the drafts could not be provided for the garrisons and for service abroad. The short service system was right so far as the Guards were concerned, but it must be remembered that they did not provide drafts for abroad. It was said that under the new scheme they would not get the men. There had been many predictions about the Army in recent years which had been proved to be false. At any rate it was worth trying. It was bound to be somewhat of an experiment. The second criticism was as to the standard of efficiency. They were told that the necessary standard of efficiency would not be got from these men under the depot system. There would be great force in that argument if the men had to go out as units or battalions to fight in an incompletely trained state, but when they were sent as drafts he thought most modern scientific soldiers would agree that the position was quite different. The men would go into depots for six months, and be trained by highly trained officers and non-commissioned officers. They would get in that time somewhat of cohesion, and although naturally they would not be the same as if they were trained under the battalion system, there was no reason why they should not get as good training and as successful results as in the period of time allotted to Militiamen. In the opinion of modern scientific soldiers the usefulness of men as partially trained units as compared with men in unprepared units was as two to one. That was to say 2,000 ill-trained drafts fighting in well organised battalions would be more useful than 4,000 men constituted in ill-trained or partially trained units. Therefore, in regard to efficiency, these depots would provide all that was necessary in connection with this proposal. The men would be largely recruited at the age of seventeen. He thought he was right in saying that after they had passed six months training they were to go into the Reserve for six years. He thought those who had practical experience in these matters were agreed that young men could, at the age of nineteen, be sent out to the front to all temperate climates. They had only to wait two years before these men became useful soldiers at the front. They could discard one-sixth of the men as undergoing training and another sixth as being too young. The remaining four-sixths would be available for all ordinary purposes abroad. The scheme was well worth trying, because it produced drafts and an organisation which was far less expensive than the present. It seemed to him that those who were arguing against the proposal had lost to a certain extent the true perspective of the scheme of Army reform now proposed. If the members of each branch of the Army came to the House and argued for maintaining the traditions of his own particular branch of the service, then it would be impossible for his right hon. friend to attempt any general scheme of Army reform. It was time for those who were interested in particular branches to sink their rather local feelings in regard to the distinctions between different branches and to look at the scheme from a broader point of view. Our voluntary system had great inherent difficulties and the Government were trying to make a large reform to meet the necessities of a widespreading empire. He sincerely hoped the Committee would resist the Amendment and retain in its entirety the clause which, in his opinion, was the most important in the Bill.

*VISCOUNT MORPETH said he could not understand how the hon. Baronet opposite could imagine that the Militia in any proper sense would continue to exist after it had been torn asunder in the way proposed. He agreed that the different branches of the Auxiliary Forces should be prepared to make sacrifices for the general good, but that was a sentiment which should have been allowed to stand alone without any pretence that the Militia was going to be saved. What was really vital was the condition of the Regular Army, because the Territorial Forces in most cases would only come into play either to retrieve disaster or to avert it rather later in the day. It was to the initial success of the

Regular Army that the country must look for safety. The hon. Baronet had said that the men would be able to be sent to the front at nineteen years of age. Throughout the discussions on the Bill they had been told that different categories of troops would be able to serve in different parts of the Empire, some at home, some in Europe, some in the tropics, and some in India. The system which gave so many different categories of men was not a simple one. If some could be used in one place and some in others it was very likely that the whole of them would not be able to be used at the one point where they would be most required. Besides being too young the men were too little trained. The hon. Baronet had rather thrown cold water upon the regimental feeling which existed in the Militia, and had said there was very little distinction between that and the sort of loyalty that could be felt towards the depots, even going so far as to suggest that there might be a sort of depot tradition. He himself did not know what a depot tradition might be, but it would be curious if it could be a substitute for the feeling which existed in the Army and Auxiliary Forces now. If that was the feeling on which the hon. Baronet relied, he had the faintest hopes of what the second line of the right hon. Gentleman's Army was going to be. He did not wish to speak in praise of the product in the past. He thought it was in many respects very bad, but it was probably a great deal better than anything they were likely to see under the present scheme. The men who went into the Militia Reserve and were liable to be drafted into the Regular Army were men who had served a certain length of time in the Militia, had trained under their own officers, and had acquired to some extent the regimental feeling. That would not be the case with the boys who came from the depots. The men sent to the Regular Army from the Militia Reserve were better soldiers than those who would be sent under the new scheme, and who would have no opportunity of learning their duty or becoming acquainted with their comrades. It was perfectly true that when a large number of reservists rejoined the colours the machine did not work as smoothly as in the case of men who were serving with the colours. That was a difficulty in Continental armies when a large number of reservists were suddenly drafted into the regular army. That difficulty would be emphasised if they had only Reservists in name and not in fact. It had been said that the system was necessary because it was absolutely essential to keep the Regular Army filled up. Every hon. Member acknowledged that; it was only when that object had been achieved and when they had the Regular Army equal to the establishment and that establishment efficient, that they had a right to consider the Auxiliary Forces. The only way to keep the Regular Forces up to full strength was, he contended, to keep the Auxiliary Forces up to full strength. He submitted that the scheme put forward by the right hon. Gentleman would not in any case solve the difficulty. The strength of the Militia now was 90,000 men, and that number was a diminishing one. The strength which the right hon. Gentleman desired for his third battalions was 72,000 men, but what reason was there to expect that he would get them? The Militia was abolishing itself, because it was simply a drafting machine; and it was impossible to get men to join a force when the prospect was that they were to be drilled in the depots and afterwards to be drafted into regiments they cared nothing about? They were told that the Militia were going to be abolished because certain colonels objected to the drafting of their men into the Regular Army. He could prophesy, just as well as the right hon. Gentleman, and he declared that the men for these third battalions would not be forthcoming. If they did come, they would be of indifferent quality, and if they did not come the right hon. Gentleman's scheme would break down. The hon. Member for the Abercromby division was very fond of saying that partially trained troops were better than the Regular troops who had had a fuller training. That was a paradox. His own belief was that the men belonging to the Auxiliary Forces were often superior in quality to the men in the Regular Army, and that superiority might make up to certain degree for a want of training. But certainly no one would be able to maintain that the quality of the men of the third battalions would make up for the deficiency of the training, and to say that they would be more intelligent, better shots, and stronger men than th

Viscount Morpeth.

Regulars who had had a longer training was to court disaster. A system founded on such a basis must, in his opinion, break down.

*Mr. REES said he was very far indeed from sympathising with that unreasoning and aggressive anti-military spirit which manifested itself in such an extraordinary fashion in certain quarters of the House; but he thought that the hon. Member for Gravesend was talking at large when he declared that 300,000 or 400,000 troops would be wanted on the North-West Indian frontier within a few months of the outbreak of a war with Russia. What we had to fear was a Russian approach by railway towards the Persian Gulf or a railway under German control through Mesopotamia. The danger point had shifted from the frontier hills to the inland sea. An invasion of India by way of Afghanistan was a most unlikely contingency, but war ships in the Gulf were necessary.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was going too much into detail, away from the Amendment which the Committee were now discussing.

*Mr. REES said he had been only following the argument of the hon. Member for Gravesend as to what number of men would be available and would be required for re-enforcing the Regular Army on the frontier of India in case of war with Russia. However, he would immediately drop the subject. He presumed he would be in order in saying that if by any compromise the character and composition of the Militia Forces could to any extent be preserved, it would be advantageous to the Territorial Army in his belief, and such preservation would, he was certain, be very acceptable to the Auxiliary Forces.

*Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said that the Secretary for War had stated in answer to a Question he had put to him that when the Committee came to this particular part of the Bill, he would give information on the points raised in the Question in which the people of Ireland were interested; but so far the right hon. Gentleman had witheld that information. In dealing with the first-class Army Reserve they required to go into every detail, and to examine closely not only the class of the Reserve but also the class from which it was drawn. At the same time, in order to enable them to judge as to whether the scheme proposed by the Secretary of State for War was good for the country, they were bound to compare the Reserves which he proposed with those that now existed. He failed to see why the right hon. Gentleman had taken such a risk as to do away with the class of men that had been hitherto attracted to the colours in order to secure the power to enlist in the first-class Reserves men who had not served before. It was a very grave risk and one which he did not believe the country was prepared to accept, and he feared if the clause was put into operation it would be found to be a far larger risk than anything which the Secretary of State anticipated. The right hon. Member for Croydon had stated that there were to be left as a sort of connecting link between the old Reserve and the new a certain number of Irish Militia battalions. That was one point on which the right hon. Gentleman ought to have enlightened the Committee. He ought to have stated whether they were to be retained in their entirety or to be amalgamated and done away with as Irish battalions. The right hon. Member for Croydon had mentioned that eight battalions were not to be interfered with; but to show the state of chaos that existed in this matter there was a strong rumour in Ireland that it was twelve and not eight.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that all this had nothing to do with the Amendment under discussion, which was to leave out subsection (1) which simply authorised the enlisting into the first class Army Reserve, of men who had not served in His Majesty's Regular Forces.

Captain CRAIG said he only touched upon the point because of the way in which the Secretary of State for War put off the Committee.

Mr. WYNDHAM pointed out that earlier in the afternoon there was a tacit understanding arrived at between both Front Benches that this would be an appropriate place to consider the two alternatives before them, either to keep the Militia to perform certain functions as at present, or to adopt the new scheme.

He submitted it was rather difficult to develop the argument if it was ruled that these words did not alter the meaning that had been attached to them.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he did not wish to interfere with any arrangement that had been come to, but it did not appear to him that the observations of the hon. Member were in order.

MR. WYNDHAM quite admitted that the words of the Amendment did not suggest what he had said, but there had been a tacit arrangement that on this should take place the debate on the principles of the scheme.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said he could confirm what the right hon. Gentleman said in that respect.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that, on that understanding, he should allow the discussion to proceed.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said he only wanted to touch upon the question because of the way in which the Committee had been put off, and he would not carry it further. Passing from that he would ask whether they could rely upon the country off-hand filling up the blank left by the abolition of the Militia? Could they on the outbreak of war rely on the country furnishing the Reserves which were necessary to carry on a campaign? In all good faith he held out a solemn warning to the right hon. Gentleman that his Reserves would fail him. He did not say that the men would fail, but he simply said the scheme would break down. They had heard a great deal about the spirit of the depot and the associations which would be thrown around young men of seventeen who were to be brought to the depot to be trained, but he could scarcely imagine that any great amount of regimental enthusiasm could occur on the outbreak of war, when neither the commissioned nor the non-commissioned officers accompanied these boys to the front, and when the boys themselves, who had been trained and brought up in the barrack yard together, did not go out as a unit, but were drafted into different regiments—some to guard the lines of communication and others to go to the front. The regimental association, such as it was, would be broken into, and there could be no *esprit de corps*, and none of that tradition which was found under present conditions. There could be none of these things in the new Reserve, especially when they had regard to the fact that nowadays so much depended on the individuality of the various officers. When they considered the lack of inducements for a boy of the proper class to join the new Reserve it was impossible to discover anything which would overcome the difficulties he had mentioned. The pay was not such as would attract the best class of Reservists, and if the best class was required that class must be attracted by either the pay or the terms of service, or in some other way. But even supposing the men would volunteer for the Reserves from patriotic reasons, the training they would receive would be that which was least suited to enable them to perform the functions they would be called upon to perform. If men were to be trained for times of national emergency they must be trained with the troops by the side of whom they were to fight. Were these boys on the outbreak of war expected to go to a foreign land like India and to be drafted into the ranks of seasoned troops? The truth of the matter was that they were not. They were a Reserve on paper only, and on the outbreak of war there would be no Reserve to send to the assistance of the Regular Army at the front. If they were sent out he had no hesitation in saying that they would be a danger to those whom they were sent out to assist. If they were properly trained they would be quite ready to take their place in the ranks of seasoned troops, and would, no doubt, have a steadying influence on the battalion. It seemed to him almost hopeless to expect to get the best results from such an unbusiness-like method. A first-class Army Reserve scheme should be thoroughly well thought out by the Government before the Committee was asked to consider it at all. Yet not one question put by the right hon. Member for Croydon had been answered. The speech of the Under-Secretary of State for India could not be considered as an answer in any way by anyone who knew the conditions of the Reserves at the present time. Was it the case, as the hon. Member for Lichfield inferred in the question he had put to the right hon. Gentleman, that the necessity for the scheme would never have arisen had it not been for the fact that the colonels of Militia regiments objected strongly to their men being sent out as drafts piecemeal? He hardly thought that that was the real reason for this Bill, because when a regiment was sent out to the seat of war it was immediately broken up for drafts; but if it was, the colonels of the Militia who refused to allow their units to be so treated were responsible for the present state of things. It was not possible to have an arrangement for Reserve purposes, whether it was a depot for sending out drafts, or a company raised by somebody in times of emergency, no matter how they were trained at home, by which they could expect to send out men to stand beside seasoned troops. He considered the Bill a retrograde measure, and that the Government were producing a force which was not convenient to handle or to get together. We had now a thoroughly well-trained Reserve which a postcard could call to the colours at any time, and if the right hon. Gentleman was going to destroy that it would be a great convenience to the Committee if he would give them some idea of whether his new Reserve force would be equal to the present; where he was going to draw his reserve from; whether it was going to be the good old Militia Reservist class, or whether a new race was to spring up to fit the coat which the right hon. Gentleman had made for it. The next point was as to the various classes of recruits which the right hon. Gentleman got under this clause. It was possible to raise a class of Reservists in one part of the country who certainly would not harmonise or go well with those from another part. For his part, he would very much have preferred if the right hon. Gentleman could have seen his way to establish a general depot for the training of the first-class Reservists gathered in the various recruiting districts throughout the country. If the units were to be scattered throughout the country where they would be of no use, they would not be worth talking about; there would be no enthusiasm about them. They might call it sentiment if they liked, but the country was dependent upon sentiment for its Volunteer Army, and not upon conscription or other enforced methods of service. The right hon. Gentleman had not given the slightest indication of how he intended to foster that sentiment, nor had he said whether the first-class Army Reservists were to be trained at isolated stations throughout the country or brought together at one general depot. He hoped that before the close of the debate the right hon. Gentleman would answer the Questions as regards the Irish regiments, and what was to happen to them.

MR. WYNDHAM said he rose to express the earnest hope that they had not heard the last word from the Government upon this all-important, and what he might call, this momentous subsection of the Bill. He hoped that the Committee would understand that he was casting no disparaging reflection upon the reply of the Under-Secretary for India to the heavy indictment delivered earlier in the debate by his right hon. friend the Member for Croydon. That was not the occasion for making scores, even if they could be made, off those who had spoken on the other side. They were not discussing a Party question, and they were not seeking a Party advantage. With the possible exception of the hon. and gallant Member for Chippenham, he was unaware of a single person in the House, or out of the House, in the service, or amongst the gentlemen who wrote the able military correspondence, who had not expressed some concern as to the possible consequences which might ensue from this clause. The Military Correspondent of *The Times* had often been cited by both sides of the House and by the Secretary for War. But the right hon. Gentleman knew that, if they read between the lines of the letters of that distinguished soldier and able journalist, they found great disquietude in his mind at the consequences which might ensue from passing this subsection. He gathered from his letters that the Military Correspondent of *The Times* would have preferred that the Secretary for War had taken some less drastic steps in respect of the Militia. And certainly the correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette*, who had been supporting the right hon. Gentleman, had said more than once, in so many words, that he would be very glad if the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the consequences of this sub-section in so far as they affected the Militia. It was not only the most important passage in the whole Bill, but it was of a character quite distinct from any other part. It had far-reaching consequences affecting the forces of the Crown as a whole, the Regular Army and every branch of the Auxiliary Forces. If the right hon. Gentleman had any hope to hold out to them, if he had another word to say upon the clause and the consequences which it would entail, he thought he ought to say it now. He ought to say it in the House of Commons; he ought to say it to the Committee, curtailed as their opportunities for debate had unfortunately been. Let him take for one moment the speech of the Under-Secretary for India. He would illustrate his contention that the clause was totally different from all the other clauses, and that it marked a great change of policy, or the possibilities of a great change of policy, really greater than anything that had happened since the time of Mr. Cardwell. The Under-Secretary for India, when he began his speech, made a very large assumption. He read out this sub-section, and said that if they were to have Special Reservists at all, that was the way to get them. He did not hold that to be a travesty of the hon. Gentleman's speech, and it was a very large assumption which they must examine. The speech of the Under-Secretary for India was, as he was sure it was intended to be, perfectly straightforward and sincere, and he could only have had in his mind that class of man who was now enlisted in the Army for the purpose of putting him into the Reserve, to perform certain definite functions—a man who might be called a trained soldier, a man who did administrative work in the Army as distinct from the fighting work of the Army. For that purpose they made a short circuit, so that instead of enlisting a man for the Army, giving him his shilling, and then putting him into the Reserve, they took the man at once for this purpose and this purpose alone. But they knew—because the right hon. Gentleman had dealt very fairly with them—they knew from the Minister in charge of the Bill that this sub-section covered no less than what he had called taking the whole substance of the Militia and putting it into the Reserve, which was a totally different matter. The one was an administrative device to get their Army Service Corps men into the Reserve so that they could call upon them in time of war on the embodiment of the Army. That was one thing. But to take the whole substance of the Militia and thereby kill the Militia, without the possibility of resurrection, in order to make a new kind of Reserve which they thought, on the whole, compared unfavourably with the present Reserve, was a totally different affair. He thought he would be right in saying that these five lines of the Bill covered other purposes too. They took fourteen squadrons piecemeal out of the Yeomanry; they covered and took, too, Volunteers to serve in the ammunition columns of the Regular Artillery; they covered the taking of the Army Service Corps men into the Auxiliary troops, as they were called, of the Army. So that in these five lines they had several policies—the policy of substituting these 3rd training battalions for the Militia; the policy of extracting all that was best in the Yeomanry and putting it into the Reserve under the obligations of the Reserve Acts; and the policy of eking out the Regular Artillery by taking the Volunteers and putting them also under the Reserve Acts. Out of these three policies, on any one of which the House should have had proper time for deliberation, incomparably the most important to his mind, was the proposal to kill the Militia, and to take its substance and put it into the new training battalions. He noted, and he asked the Secretary for War to note, one phrase which the Under-Secretary for India had used in speaking for the Government. He said that the Bill passed last year enabled the War Office of that date to take in Reservists. Let them think what a flood of light that threw upon the possible consequences of this sub-section. Every man who went into the Reserve, whether he belonged to the substance of the Militia and went into the battalion, or to the Yeomanry and went into the squadron, or to the Volunteers and went into the ammunition column of the Artillery—every man abstracted from the Auxiliary Forces and put into the Reserve would, by the legislation of last year, be a contravention of the power of the War Office. Surely they ought to be told what the clause meant. When the Bill became an Act and this clause was part of it, the intentions of the right hon. Gentleman would be matters of historical interest, but they would not shape and determine the lives of men in the Auxiliary Forces who went into this Reserve. The Under-Secretary of State for India had laid it down as an absolute proposition, to which apparently no exception was to be found, that if the Militia were to give drafts to the Regular Army they could not go abroad. That was what the hon. Gentleman had stated. It was a matter of common knowledge that the Secretary of State for War entered into negotiations with the colonels of the Militia to allow their regiments to supply drafts for the Regular Army, and, if the colonels of the Militia had not raised difficulties, amounting almost to a refusal, in the language of the military correspondent of *The Times*, the right hon. Gentleman's scheme would not have been that under discussion, but a scheme under which the Militia would be preserved and be prepared to give drafts to the Line. Therefore, they could not accept it as an unalterable proposition that a body of troops which gave drafts could not, after giving those drafts, be used for the units. They knew that was not the case. What had happened in the past? What happened when the brigade of Guards went to the front, and when the brigade of Highlanders went to the front, and when the brigade of Irish regiments went to the front, or the regiments forming those brigades, which largely helped the other battalions in the first stage of the war? It was that spirit of patriotism to which the right hon. Gentleman was always referring which called the recruits into the second battalion, and that second battalion was reinforced as the units were called to duty abroad, although it had furnished drafts for the first battalion. It was far more preferable, after all, that all those who were going to fight, who were going to endure those trying experiences, those awful experiences described by his right hon. friend—it was far better that those who had got to face the firing line should have been trained in a battalion rather than in a depot. It was better that they should be inspired by the traditions which that battalion had accumulated during two hundred years; it was better for them to feel that if they failed at the front, they failed, not as individuals, casting discredit on those who had gone before them, but as part of a battalion with great traditions. The advantages of that inspiring sentiment were greater and not smaller simply because it was sentiment. There was nothing interesting in squad drill, if they looked to getting their drafts from among boys of seventeen who were to be got into shape by placing them in obsolete depots, to be trained under officers they had never seen before; and then probably sent out in little battalions jumbled together on one ship, attached to regiments they had never heard of, and put into the firing line to suffer death. The patriotism of the country was a force upon which the right hon. Gentleman could count, but let him train it into the proper channel. The right hon. Gentleman made a great point by saying that these training battalions would never go abroad as units. That was one of the deplorable features of the scheme. These battalions, according to the right hon. Gentleman, were simply to provide drafts to make good the wastage of war; but later on he added that they were also to supply that stream of recruits for the Line which the Line now received from the Militia. But did not the right hon. Gentleman feel that he had much better rely on the old force, which at present not only supplied drafts and recruits, but did garrison service abroad? What warrant had the right hon. Gentleman for telling the Committee that this new force would discharge at least two obligations which the Militia had discharged with a great measure of success? The right hon. Gentleman should say why he had thrown the Militia into the melting-pot, because he had wedded himself to the force that could not be used as a separate unit to go abroad. The right hon. Gentleman would search history in vain in support of so sweeping a contention. The right hon. Gentleman turned the substance of the Militia into a Reserve which could not be compared with the Reserve we now had, and then he was forced to turn the Volunteers into a substitute for the Militia, a function for which they were not suited. But the right hon. Gentleman had left nothing between the Regulars—the sterling quality of which had been debased by this amalgam of boys of seventeen—and the Volunteers who were to have no adequate training in time of peace and to be under no stringent obligation in time of war. He urged the right hon. Gentleman, therefore, to tell the Committee whether he definitely despaired of the Militia, and whether there was an irretrievable pledge to use these special Reservists in the place of the Militia. The right hon. Gentleman counted upon getting enough of the special Reservists to make good the wastage of war during six months. Even upon that reckoning he thought that the right hon. Gentleman was in error. This was a very important question. He would not repeat what the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had said that afternoon as to the possibility of our Regular Reserve being made larger. It was clear that the right hon. Gentleman would not have as many men as he would have had if he had not destroyed the machine for making the Reserves, or if he had preserved the modest, but at the same time very useful, expedient of having 100 three years men in every Line battalion. He was not accusing the right hon. Gentleman of taking steps to reduce the Regular Reserve. After a war there was always a great oscillation, and one of the first effects was to deplete the Reserve. But would the right hon. Gentleman get enough men by the device he had adopted? The military corespondent of *The Times*, who had supported him so brilliantly with his pen, said on 1st April, as to the supply of the new special Reservists during the first six months of a war, that—

> "these calculations excluded the whole question of the reinforcement of India or Egypt or the Colonies by drafts; we have little or nothing to draw upon in the shape of Regular troops when the field Army has left our shores"

Those who defended the right hon. Gentleman's scheme, therefore, said that this expedient would not give him the quantities of men absolutely necessary. Whatever might be said about the quantity, however, no one pretended that the scheme gave the quality of our existing Reserve, or of that of any other army known to us. The right hon. Gentleman had criticised the provisions of having short service battalions, in which the men served two years. Did he allege that the Guards at three years service furnished a bad Reserve? In foreign armies the men were enlisted for two years, and men who had served for two years in a historic battalion had a different temper from the men whom the right hon. Gentleman contemplated putting in the Reserve. In respect of quantity the plan would fail. Why did the right hon. Gentleman expect to get a sufficient number of recruits? As things were now a boy entered the Militia at seventeen; perhaps he joined a Militia battalion which bore the name of a county regiment. They did not know whether it would continue to bear that name. He went into that battalion, he saw what battalion work was like, what soldiering was like, and he went on into the county regiment, and ultimately into the Reserve. That had a certain inspiring influence which under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman would not be operative in getting recruits. The boy would join as a special Reservist, and then he passed under an uncertain obligation to be taken for any service for which the War Office chose to call him. Who was going to be attracted by the prospect of squad drill in a barrack-yard by an officer whom the man had never seen before and might never see again? And what would the quality be like? It was said that, after all, the boy of seventeen who went into the special Reserve was the same sort of boy who went into the Militia. But what happened to the two? In the case of the boy who went into the Militia, if he liked soldiering, he went into the county regiment. He was there for seven years, and then, at twenty-four or twenty-five, when he went into the Reserve, he was a man on whose character and quality they might depend. They were sometimes asked to consider the wastage; but was it not better to get what they wanted now rather than adopt the policy of the right hon. Gentleman? How did the right hon. Gentleman meet that? He met it by not exposing these boys to a process of medical examination. They might be consumptive or undermined with hereditary disease, but they could go into the Reserve for an indefinite period, and they would appear in the Estimates year by year as Reservists who were to make up the wastage of war. For all the House knew, they might be wasted in peace. Don Quixote exposed his helmet to a great test. He struck it with a sword and made a hole in it. Then he mended it with cardboard, put it on his head, and was satisfied that it was a very good helmet indeed. So the right hon. Gentleman said that the boys who now went into the Militia would go into the special contingent, but he applied no test to them. The right hon. Gentleman asked the country to be satisfied that in the day of peril these men would be forthcoming and ready to do duty in a war on which, perhaps, might depend the existence of the country. This apparently innocent subsection had far-reaching consequences upon our first line, the Regular Forces, and it had no less far-reaching consequences on the second line, the Auxiliaries. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the whole Militia regiment might become one of the service battalions. If that were so, they would be absolutely under the thumb of the War Office of the day. How were they going to recruit the Auxiliary Forces under those conditions? Would it not be better to proceed under Clause 12, and allow men to take the foreign obligation? Under this clause, from the very start a man was to be asked, "Are you for the special contingent or the special Reserve?" If he said yes, he was under an obligation which might last for twelve years. It was a ludicrous plan; it shattered the Auxiliary Forces; and it was an unnecessary plan. It would take the pith and marrow of the Yeomanry to be drilled apart and to take a six years obligation to go into the Reserve and perhaps to be taken for a cavalry regiment. The purpose might be met by allowing young men to undertake the obligation, putting it upon the colonel to have at any time the quota that might be needed. That could be done by appealing to the generous emulation of the youth of the country without shattering the force past all redemption.

MR. HALDANE said the Committee were fortunate in the concentration of the debate upon a particular point, and discussion had shed light on the position. A point which must have struck everybody who had taken part in the debates was that the Government after all had—whether for better or worse was another question—a definite plan which they had put before the House. They had been some eighteen months in office, and, at all events, they had brought forward this definite plan. It had been subjected to criticism, but criticism upon the Government proposal to be effective should be accompanied by an alternative plan to meet the special circumstances of the case. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had been in office for ten years and his Government had been endeavouring to deal with the Army question. Plan had succeeded plan. Did the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon make no proposition to alter the Reserves? He made proposals, but his colleagues did not agree with him.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there was no foundation for the statement that his colleagues disagreed with him. So far from that being the case, the scheme was put in force, and a considerable number of men were passed into the Reserves.

MR. HALDANE: They raised very few under that scheme.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I say that 52 per cent. of the men enlisted enlisted for short service.

MR. HALDANE said the men joined the Reserves on an extremely small and microscopic scale. The plan was brought forward on 1st August, 1904. Why did it not make any further progress? That was one of those puzzling things which it was not for him to look into. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover made one observation with which he cordially agreed, that the only use of a Reserve force was for a war purpose. It was for that purpose that reorganisation was proposed, it was for that purpose that he withstood the objections of Service men to the proposed changes. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the plan had caused general concern, and he suggested that few soldiers were in favour of it. Did he attach no importance to the fact that the Army Council had cordially endorsed it?

MR WYNDHAM: I am sorry to say I attach no importance to that.

MR. HALDANE asked whether the right hon. Gentleman attached no importance to the fact that the Defence Committee approved of the scheme. After all, the opinions of distinguished soldiers—men like General French—were not to be altogether despised in this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM said that the right hon. Gentleman was supporting his scheme as a whole, while he was protesting against this substitution of the third battalions as the worst form of Reserves.

MR. HALDANE said that the right hon. Gentleman could not have taken a more unlucky illustration. The scheme had been worked out with all the skill that the best professional element in the Army could bring to bear on it. If there was anything in the Bill that was an Army scheme it was the third battalions and the Reserve they produced. The right hon. Gentleman could not have forgotten that Lord Elgin's Commission had said that the Militia was going from bad to worse. The force was 40,000 men short of its establishment, and 1,000 officers. Those were the reasons why the Government insisted that if something was to be done with the question of Army reform it must be approached in a serious way, and all other considerations which could not be intelligently applied must be brushed aside. With its present organisation the Militia was incapable of making an efficient adjunct to the Regular Army. Did hon. Members believe that the same unit could produce the drafts that were necessary, and at the same time be efficient in war ? Why was it the late Government abolished the Militia Reserve, the most valuable thing the Militia produced ? Why should they sweep that away ? They were left at this moment without any machinery to provide for the wastage of war. The Government had surveyed the Line, and they had found hole after hole and gap after gap in its constitution, and their work was to make good those holes and gaps. It had been suggested that the drafts they produced were not of the same quality as the Reserve, and that they were weakening the Reserve and deteriorating the quality of the force. The drafts they were creating they sought to create, not in substitution of the Reserve, but for the reason only that the late Government, having destroyed the Militia Reserve, had left the country without anything to make up the wastage of war. He agreed that Part III. was the most vital part of the Bill. Without it they could not make up the deficiency in the first line. The expeditionary force was of no account unless they could mobilise it, and they could not mobilise it unless they filled up the gaps. His hon. friend the Member for the Lichfield Division had said that this was an integral portion of the scheme, and that without it the plan of the expeditionary force would be incomplete, because otherwise no provision could be made for the wastage of war. In fact they could not keep it alive unless they provided the machinery to make up for the wastage of war. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover had said that one of the startling features of Part III. was that it applied not only to the Militia and the wastage of war, but to the Yeomanry and artillery, and, he might add, to the Army Service Corps and the Army Medical Corps. The theory of the Bill was to organise two lines, and two lines only—that there must be a clear line of demarcation between the Regular expeditionary force on the one hand and the Territorial Force for home defence on the other. It was true that there were several services, the material for which could well be drawn from the Territorial Force, and he believed it would contain many men who would be keen about soldiering and willing to come over the line and bring themselves within Part III. of the scheme. If they did they would belong to the first line. It was true that he hoped to get from the Yeomanry a certain number of men who would take engagements under Part III. and then belong to the Regular cavalry. It was true that they proposed to get a number of artillerymen belonging to what used to be the Militia class who would come over in training brigades and would form a reserve for artillery, for divisional ammunition columns, and, in time, for brigade ammunition columns. But the point was that it was absolutely true that Part III. was a vital, and perhaps the most vital part of the Bill, for without it the deficiencies of the first line could not be made up. It was all very well to talk of the largeness of the expeditionary force; but that force would be of no account unless it could be mobilised, and in order to mobilise it they must provide for the wastage and the subsidiary services. There had been a good deal of discussion about the Regular Reserve, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had said it was being reduced. The units would now produce their own Reserve, and the Reserve was adequate to mobilise the units. Of course there was a smaller Reserve than there would be if there were more units; but an enormous amount of nonsense had been talked about the reduction in the Reserve. He had before him notes of the most careful description of the criticisms which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had made upon the Reserve which the Government proposed to constitute. He was not going to be so hostile as to quote all the hard things which the military correspondent of *The Times* had said about the right hon. Gentleman's calculations; but the right hon. Gentleman would admit that the military correspondent of *The Times* was perhaps not wholly without reason in saying that the right hon. Gentleman had slightly misrepresented certain propositions forming the foundation of his calculations. According to the latest figures, what was the actual state of the Reserve? With section D as low as 16,293 the total was 100,777. If section D were not below its normal—if it had not been closed down—its figure would have been not 16,000 but 25,000—a difference of 9,000. The actual Reserve on 1st April, 1907, was 117,070. His calculation was that the Reserve to be got under the terms of service settled with the view of getting this very Reserve which they considered adequate was 115,000; but this normal Reserve of 115,000 took section D at 25,185, which it would be on normal conditions on his terms of service, so that he had that difference in his favour. Few things were more misleading than to take the state of the Reserve at a particular date and compare it with the normal state of the Reserve. He had known a Reserve down as much as 2,000 in the course of seven or eight weeks. He had another table calculated in 1905, which, compared with the table calculated in 1907, gave the Reserve as less, although the establishments were larger. That table was calculated for infantry only, and on the hypothesis, which proved to be altogether misleading, that the number of extensions would be very much larger than they actually were.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: How much larger?

MR. HALDANE said the right hon. Gentleman's calculation was based on the assumption that the proportion of extensions from seven to twelve years would be 30 per cent. on the average. They were nothing approaching 30 per cent. He had no interest in this matter but to get at the truth. The figures he had given to the Committee had been worked out for him by the best experts he could command, and he thought that in the light of the criticism of the military correspondent of *The Times*, and what he had himself said, the Committee would consider that the result remained unshaken. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the Crimea, and no doubt the case of the Crimea was deplorable. That was because we had no provision to give us a Reserve, and we had to improvise recruits to be sent out, but the Commander-in-Chief asked us to send no more because they were so bad. To-day, thanks to the working of the Cardwell system, we had a magnificent Reserve in the Home battalions, and we had an establishment which, if it consisted of a smaller number of units, was in some respects better than the right hon. Gentleman had to deal with. The strength of the Colonial battalions had been increased by seventy-four men each. It was true they had reduced temporarily the establishment of the Home battalions from 750 to 720. That was owing to the shortage produced by the unfortunate three years system. As soon as the strength corrected itself and made the establishment correspond with the facts, one thing he would insist upon was that establishment and strength should henceforward correspond. He would like to know whether the Leader of the Opposition could give them, even in outline, a plan for making the Militia as efficient for the supply of drafts and units comparable in simplicity with the plan of these battalions. He agreed that they were taking the substance of the Militia battalions for the third or training battalions. But they were leaving more than sufficient of the units, and they would be able to mobilise more units under this plan than they could have mobilised before. What they proposed to do with the twelve battalions of Irish Militia who would not form third battalions was typical of what they were going to do under Part III. The Irish Militia without exception would pass under Part III. if this scheme was carried through. They would be enlisted into the special Reserve and would belong to the special contingent. But as they would not be wanted for the third battalions of the Regular regiments, that was to say, beyond the production of the eight battalions which were required to form the third battalions of the eight Irish regiments, there would be a surplus; and the Government proposed to bring the battalions together, to bring up their establishment, and to deal with them in a fashion which, they hoped, would make them efficient and would produce twelve more battalions. These twelve battalions would be liable to furnish drafts in case of need, but their primary function would be, not to furnish drafts—they had enough in the eight battalions—but to serve as units unless the supreme necessity of the first line required them to form drafts. The principle might be extended by some future Parliament, but it was capable of a great deal of application even in present circumstances. It insured an expeditionary force of sixty-six battalions of the Line, and was capable of doing much of the work for which it was necessary to draw on all sorts of odd units, under the old, confused state of things. As to officers, one of the things which he had put most prominently forward was a plan for the creation of a Reserve of Officers. At present the miserable situation was that we were nearly 4,000 officers short for the first line, and more than that number short for the second line. That was the state of things which he had undertaken to attempt to remedy. The outline of proposals had been put before the House, and seeing that the Govern- had been at work for only eighteen months, it could not be said that they had allowed the grass to grow under their feet. He had shown why the Government felt bound to deal with the Militia, and why they attached vital importance to this third part of the Bill, in supplying the deficiencies of the first line, not only in regard to the wastage of war, but in regard to cavalry, ammunition columns, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance, Medical, and Veterinary Corps. He had shown why the Government felt bound to this organisation in two lines, and how it was that Part III. of the Bill completed the mechanism necessary for the efficiency of the Regular line. No plan could be ideal. The Government had done their best, with the best assistance they could command, to get a workable machinery which would give the nation value for its money and make the best of the materials at disposal. They might have failed or they might have succeeded, but they were not open to the criticism of those who had experienced the enormous difficulties of the problem and who, after ten years, had been able to produce no other alternative.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the right hon. Gentleman had imparted rather an unnecessarily polemical tone to his observations. The right hon. Gentleman asked for a plan, and left nineteen minutes for its explanation and defence. He would not attempt to copy a practice in which the right hon. Gentleman was indulging almost to excess—that of describing everyone from whom he differed as guilty of mixed thinking, and everyone with whom he agreed as a master of the art of clear thinking, and the plan which he recommended as the one which alone deserved the name of scientific. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not think him worse than other people in the obscurity of his thinking or in the unscientific character of his suggestions if he rose to the right hon. Gentleman's invitation and pointed out where his plan might be modified for the better. He did not mean to touch on the controversy between the right hon. Gentleman and his right hon. friend the Member for Croydon as to the amount of the Regular Reserve of the Army. It was impossible for those who were not actuaries and who were not inside the War Office to deal with that question. But it was sufficient for the Committee to remember that the source from which the Reserve sprang was the Regular battalions; that those were being diminished; and that the inevitable consequence was and must be that the Regular Reserve produced under this scheme must be less than before if the terms of service remained the same. The real question, and the only question they had to determine, was whether they did better by abolishing the Militia and substituting for them these so-called Third Battalions, which were not battalions at all, but depots, or whether they could not improve their Militia and make them subserve the double purpose of providing, or helping to provide drafts, at the same time leaving it open to them to provide, in case of need, separate units for service on the lines of communication, and ultimately, it might be, for service in the fighting line. He would earnestly suggest to the Committee that it was not inconsistent with the right hon. Gentleman's scheme that the existing Militia, with all their traditions, all their *esprit de corps*, all the organisation, which required improvement, but which was capable of improvement, should be used to carry out what, he agreed with him, were the two great purposes which every Secretary of State for War must have regard to. If the right hon. Gentleman said, as he had said, that it was not only necessary to provide Regular battalions for service in the field, but also to provide machinery by which those battalions could be fed and the wastage of war supplied, there was no man in the House who did not agree with him. Could they not use their Militia battalions partly for that purpose? That was the first question he would ask. The second question he would ask was this. The Militia battalions as they were at present constituted had proved themselves, even when depleted, most valuable units in the field. That was not a question of speculation. It was a certainty. It had been done within the last ten years. If they were all agreed, and he thought they were, that drafts could be provided and that the units were also useful and had proved themselves useful, the question arose—Could the Militia, especially the Militia reorganised and improved, not carry out both the great functions of providing drafts and units? The right hon. Gentleman had told them that he did desire the Irish Militia to carry out those functions, and, when he asked him what his plan was, his reply was to give to the English Militia the organisation which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to give to the Irish Militia, and to ask the English Militia to perform the duties which he was already prepared and determined to ask the Irish Militia to perform. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that he was going to ask the Irish Militia to provide drafts and fighting units. That seemed to be the moral to be drawn from the first part of his observations. The right hon. Gentleman had told them, rather cursorily, but in unmistakable terms, and with perfect lucidity, that he desired the Irish Militia to carry out both functions. And the scheme of the Irish Militia was that they were to provide both drafts and units. If that were true—and he did not think that it could be denied by those who had followed either the right hon. Gentleman's speech or the scheme—if it were true that the Irish Militia were to fulfil both functions, then they asked why the plan was not applied to the English Militia or to the Scottish Militia. He proposed that they should give to the English Militia the organisation that it was intended to apply to the Irish Militia, and he asked that the English Militia should perform the duties which were already prepared and determined upon for the Irish Militia. He thought that was a very simple answer to the question of the right hon. Gentleman; and he would venture very earnestly to point out to the right hon. Gentleman and to the Committee that if that plan were carried out it would not violate the fundamental lines of the scheme. It was wholly consistent with the demands made upon the population for war purposes; it conflicted in no way with the general lines of the Bill. It was perfectly consistent even with Part III. of the Bill; and he was not in Committee going to commit the solecism of suggesting any plan for adoption which was inconsistent with what the right hon. Gentleman regarded as the fundamental principle of his Bill. He ventured most respectfully, and certainly in no controversial spirit, to press upon the right hon. Gentleman that, though he could not modify the main lines or the roots from which his scheme had grown, yet he could extend to England and to Scotland the Militia organisation which he had applied to Ireland. In Ireland the right hon. Gentleman proposed to retain a certain number of Militia regiments, and some of those Militia regiments were to supply drafts and units in case of need. It was an excellent plan, which seemed to him to be admirably fitted to the exigencies of a Volunteer Army. He only asked the right hon. Gentleman to adapt that plan to England and Scotland. It could not be out of harmony with his general scheme. If it was good for Ireland it could not be wrong for the other two parts of the United Kingdom. If it were consistent with his general Army scheme, if it helped the Forces of the Crown as fighting units, if it were useful in time of war when dealing with Ireland, then according to the canons of military policy it could not be a failure if they adopted it for England and Scotland. They did not ask the right hon. Gentleman to reverse the fundamental principles which he had laid down. They did not ask him to give up anything which could be regarded as an essential part of the Bill. It would be absurd to make such a demand; he did not make it; all he was asking him was to consider whether he could not extend wholly or partially his own plan for Ireland to other parts of the United Kingdom. That was a consideration which he was sure involved no inconsistency on the part of His Majesty's Government, which certainly involved the giving up of no principle, and was in harmony with all the right hon. Gentleman had said and the admirable principles he had laid down; and if he saw his way at that stage, or a future stage of the Bill, to go further than he himself had marked out, he was sure that he would greatly facilitate the acceptance of his measure, and he would give it a degree of popularity, uncontroversial popularity, which in its present shape—he did not speak of its substance—it was hardly possible for it to obtain. That was his reply to the question put to him by the right hon. Gentleman, he hoped not couched in any controversial form. He did not ask the right hon. Gentleman for any statement at this stage, but he hoped that he would recognise that in what he had said he had done his best to fit his idea at all events to those which governed the right hon. Gentleman's advisers and the Party which he represented in this matter; and he was certain that if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to meet him, not on his (Mr. Balfour's) lines but on his (the Secretary of State's) own lines he was certain that it would do much to help the progress of the Bill through the House and through Parliament, and would make it what he was sure it could be made, a Bill generally accepted by all parties of the State, and one which would improve our military organisation.

Mr. HALDANE said he could only say that the speech which the right hon Gentleman had made was a very important one, and he would conside it very closely. The proposition, h understood, was this, that a plan su gested with regard to Ireland wa agreeable to him. Of course he could not pledge himself that anything would be carried out, but he would consider th substance of the right hon. Gentleman' proposition and what was the substanc of his own proposition and give th matter careful consideration.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 30 Noes, 108. (Division List No. 224.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.

Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston

Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras,
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemout
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardig
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras,
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furn
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborn
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals

Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmore (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.

Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham.

Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt. Hn. G. (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hodge, John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Macpherson, J. T.
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wards, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being half-past ten of the clock, the CHAIRMAN proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 6th May, successively to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business to be concluded.

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 310; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 225.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'mers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles

Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget

Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S,
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)

Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)

Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J.D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt Hn. G (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Coates, E Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C, E, Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond. Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent. Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Ashley and Captain Craig.

Clause 30 agreed to.

Clause 31:

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 286; Noes, 108. (Division List No. 226.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)

Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,RtHnSirJ.T(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Clough, William
Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig,Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor
Elibank, Master of
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter

Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps,Col. Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)

Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J (City Lond)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cooper, G. J.
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hodge, John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jowett, F. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Makrs, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T.F. (Wolverhmpt'n
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wardle, George J.
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. George Roberts.

Remaining clauses and schedules agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 229.]

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS [STAMP DUTY].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an *ad valorem* stamp duty on the statement of the amount contributed or to be contributed by a limited partner, or of any increase in such amount, of five shillings for every one hundred pounds and any fraction of one hundred pounds over any multiple of one hundred pounds of the amount so contributed or to be contributed or of the increase of that amount, as the case may be, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to establish Limited Partnerships; and to make provision for recovery of such stamp duty, with interest thereon, in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

Adjourned at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 11*th June*, 1907.

VISCOUNT MIDLETON.

Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Monday last, that the right of the Viscount Midleton to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

THE LORD PENRHYN.

Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Armagh Urban District Council.

Also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with: Great Central Railway.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Great Central Railway Bill—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next.

Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with amendments.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, without amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.—Reported, without Amendment.

Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Taff Vale Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments.

Alton Military Hospital Bill [H.L]. —Read 2^{a}.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Boston Spa Gas Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments; and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendment; and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No 5.) Bill.—Brought from the Commons.

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [H.L].—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment: The Report thereof to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 66.)

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 1^{a}, to be printed; and referred to the Examiners (No. 67.)

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—To be read 2^{a} To-morrow: (The Earl Carrington).

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L]. (No. 68).—A Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Tralee, and Fenit, and Wicklow: And

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4.) Bill [H.L]. (No. 69.)—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Southwold:—Were presented by the Earl Beauchamp (for the Lord Granard (*E. Granard*): Then it was moved, That the Order of the 20th day of March last "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 2nd day of May next," be dispensed with in respect of the said Bills; and that the Bills be now read 1ª; agreed to: Bills read 1ª accordingly; to be printed and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 522. Falkland Islands. (Report for 1906.)

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3816.	Russia (Taganrog).
No. 3817.	China (Chinkiang).
No. 3818.	Greece (Thessaly).
No. 3819.	Germany (Dantzig).
No. 3820.	Netherlands (Java).

POST OFFICE (UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION).

Convention of Rome. (26th May, 1906.)

Agreement for the exchange of insured letters and boxes. (26th May, 1906.)

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of December, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.

Accounts of receipts and expenditure under the Act for year 1906.

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).

Abstract of accounts of fines accounted for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks, for the year 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 11th June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered, to be read the third time.

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill (by Order).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question proposed on consideration of Lords Amendments (10th, June), "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the Amendment, in page 2, line 7, to leave out 'water.'"

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [Lords] (by Order); General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Bill [Lords] (by Order); Harrison's Patent Bill [Lords] (by Order); Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [Lords] (by Order); Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords] (by Order); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order); Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords] (by Order); Selsey Water Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed.

Clyde Navigation Provisional Order Confirmation Bill (by Order).—Considered; to be read the third time upon Thursday.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to:—Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment;

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill;

Shanklin Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aston Manor (extension to Erdington), Chesham (Amendment), Hipperholme (Amendment), Lytham, Newark (Amendment), Penrith (Amendment), Pontefract, and Stockport (Amendment)." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the Natural Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty." [National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Corporation of the county borough of Birkenhead to obtain a supply of water from the Rivers Alwen and Brenig in the county of Denbigh; and for other purposes." [Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled "An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Glasgow to construct new tramways and a storm-water overflow; to extend the period for the construction of sewage works and the acquisition of properties; to make provision with reference to the testing of the illuminating power of the gas supply, the stand-by supply of electrical energy, the police courts, the sale of coal, weights and measures, the filling up of casual vacancies in the Corporation, the meetings of the Corporation, the notification of births, the representation of the Corporation in the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, the borrowing of further moneys for the tramways and the sewage undertakings of the Corporation; and for other purposes." [Glasgow Corporation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Sheffield to construct additional tramways and to execute certain street widenings; to confer on the Corporation further powers with respect to their water undertaking, their markets undertaking, and their electrical undertaking; to make further provisions with respect to the regulation of traffic and sanitary matters in the city; and for other purposes." [Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords.]

And, also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for transferring to the Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, certain undertakings authorised under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888; and for other purposes." [Electric Supply Corporation Bill [Lords.]

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [Lords]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [Lords]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 230.]

PETITIONS.

ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BUILDING LANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against to lie upon the Table.

BUTTER AND MARGARINE BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHARACTER NOTE BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, against; to lie upon the Table.

COMPANIES BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Haddington; and, Prestonpans; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION BILL.)

Petitions against: From Saint Andrew's; and, Southport; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petition from Stepney, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

FEUS AND BUILDING LEASES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

HOME WORK BILL.

Petition from Govan, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petitions for alteration of Law: From Birkdale; and, Bolton; to lie upon the Table.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

OPEN SPACES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).

Petition from Richmond, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Govan, against; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RIGHTS OF WAY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table.

RIGHTS OF WAY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Matlock, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table.

TROUT FISHING.

Petition from Stonehouse, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

Petition of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, against, praying to be heard by counsel; referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.

Account presented, of the Receipts and Expenditure under the Act for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 186.]

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of Fines accounted for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks for 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 187.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Report No. 522 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) (VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS).

Copy ordered, "of General Introduction to the Return (H.C. 178, 1906) made in compliance with an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 23rd day of February, 1906, together with appendices, tabular summaries, a list of additions and corrections, and a key to the symbols used in the Return."—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Hunslet Union Education Rule.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the West Riding County Council have made a demand for payment by the guardians of the Hunslet Union of the cost of the education at public elementary schools of children maintained by the guardians, and that, although the Hunslet Union is situate in two administrative counties, the institutions in which such children are maintained are entirely within the West Riding area, and the rates paid by the guardians for education purposes in respect of such buildings is equivalent to £1 18s. 6d. per annum for each child attending school; and whether, seeing that the net cost to the council of the education of such children during the last three years has only been £1 4s. 3d. per head per annum, he is prepared, in view of his reply to the hon. Member for Hackney on 14th May, 1907,† to take any steps in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have received no official intimation of the incidents in question. In the event of the children referred to being excluded, or threatened with exclusion, from school owing to the refusal of the guardians to pay the contributions demanded of them, the Board may be called upon to determine whether such exclusion is reasonable. Such decision could only be given after full consideration of the circumstances of the case, and after hearing the statements of both parties.

Re-sale of Grazing Lands.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when a purchaser owing a balance of annuities under one of the Purchase Acts prior to 1903 desires to sell his interest in a non-residential grass farm in a district in which it is much needed for distribution, are the Irish Land Commission willing, by a particular exercise of their present statutory powers, to sell the farm to the Estates Commissioners with the consent of the partial purchaser, who would then receive a bonus under the Land Act of 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) In the circumstances stated in the Question the Land Commission have no power to sell the holding to the Estates Commissioners.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 795-6.

Poor Law Valuation of Connaught.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will give the average Poor Law valuation per head of population in the province of Connaught; and will he state the highest valuation and the lowest per head, giving, if possible, the unions and parishes which contain the lowest, and what their valuation per head is.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) There is no information available of the kind required by the hon. Member in respect of parishes, but the other figures asked for by him are given below. The union with the highest valuation per head of population in Connaught is Roscommon, and with the lowest Belmullet.

	Rateable valuation, 1907.	Population, Census of 1901.	Average valuation per head of population.
	£		£ s. d.
Province of Connaught	1,457,476	646,932	2 5 1
Roscommon Union -	64,848	15,164	4 5 6
Belmullet Union -	10,973	13,845	– 15 10

Treatment of Travelling Gipsies.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Swiss Department of Justice and Police has made any advances with a view to arriving at an international understanding about the treatment of travelling bands of gipsies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have no information to the effect suggested, and I am informed by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that he has not received from the Swiss Government any proposals to that end.

Approaches to Houses of Parliament.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis construe the Order of this House to keep the passages through the streets leading to this House free and open as applying only to the approach to this House from Parliament Street; and if he will give instructions that the approach to the House from the Embankment be kept open, and the passage of Members approaching from that direction be no longer hindered by the traffic.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Commissioner of Police does not so construe the Order, but endeavours to keep all approaches to the House open for Members.

School Teachers.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state the total number of trained teachers at present employed in Church of England, Catholic, Wesleyan, and Council schools respectively; what number of persons were entitled to enter training colleges as the result of the last King's Scholarship examination; and what was the number of places available for them in Church, Catholic, Wesleyan, and undenominational colleges respectively.

MR. SILCOCK (Somerset, Wells): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state how many candidates became qualified for admission to training colleges during the years 1905 and 1906 respectively; how many students actually obtained admission to a training college in each of those years; how many of those students were admitted to denominational colleges and how many to undenominational; and what aid is now afforded from the Exchequer towards the building and maintenance of training colleges.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Number of "trained" teachers employed in Church, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, and Council Schools on the last day of the School Years ending within the Statistical Year ended 31st July, 1906 :—

	Church of England.		Wesleyan.		Roman Catholic.		Council.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
England - -	5,912	5,493	369	164	406	1,483	11,486	15,359
Wales - -	344	165	—	—	4	52	1,459	988
Total, England and Wales -	6,256	5,658	369	164	410	1,535	12,945	16,347

Number of candidates who became qualified for admission to a Training College by the King's Scholarship Examination in the following years :—

	Men.	Women.
1905 - -	2,245	9,242
1906 - -	2,271	10,664

Number of Two-year and Three-year Students admitted in the following years.

	1905.				1906.			
	Number admitted on King's Scholarship qualification.		Number admitted on other qualifications.		Number admitted on King's Scholarship qualification.		Number admitted on other qualifications.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Residential colleges :								
Church of England -	545	1,052	56	60	536	1,102	62	112
Wesleyan - -	54	49	13	8	54	66	9	8
Roman Catholic -	44	188	5	36	39	232	13	41
Undenominational -	85	357	12	59	51	491	54	103
Day Colleges :								
Undenominational -	251	496	323	307	270	717	325	319
Total - -	979	2,142	409	470	950	2,608	463	583

It has not been thought necessary to include one-year students or certificated students, as the numbers are small and the conditions of admission are slightly different. The Upper Norwood Blind Training College has not been included. The number of students who enter training colleges in any given year under the King's Scholarship examination includes a small proportion who pass their entrance examination in previous years. The students who entered under examinations other than the King's Scholarship include some who had also passed the King's Scholarship Examination. Subject to compliance with the regulations, building grants are now made by the Board to local education authorities to an amount not exceeding 75 per cent. in respect of all capital expenditure incurred by them for the provision of sites and buildings for training colleges, whether day or residential. Grants to the amount of £3 per place provided or 75 per cent. of the rent, whichever is the less, are also made in aid of renting temporary premises, where the Board are satisfied that it is inexpedient or impracticable at once to provide permanent premises. Grants for the maintenance of training colleges and hostels are as follows:—

(*a*) For each recognised student, other than a day student of a residential college, a grant to the college of £53 (men) or £38 (women).

(*b*) For each recognised day student of a residential or day college:—

(i.) A grant of £13 to the college; and either

(ii.) Where the student is resident in a hostel, a grant of £40 (men) or £25 (women) to the hostel; or

(iii.) Where the student is not resident in a hostel a grant of £25 (men) or £20 (women) to the student, this grant being paid through the authorities of the college.

Discussion of Scottish Estimates.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): To ask the Prime Minister, seeing that only three out of twelve Scottish Votes have been discussed, will arrangements be made to give an additional day for the discussion of outstanding Scottish Votes.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I doubt if it will be possible to find any more time for Scottish Estimates.

Proficiency Pay for Army Schoolmasters.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, while the substitution of proficiency pay for service pay may not cause hardship or monetary loss to service men serving in any corps (whether departmental or otherwise), the change will seriously affect non-combatants, *e.g.*, Army schoolmasters, and to the extent of nearly £11 per annum; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of so amending his proposals as to obviate this loss.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Army schoolmasters are in the same position as other corps ineligible for proficiency pay. Their ordinary rates of pay include remuneration for technical qualifications, and men appointed to the corps or contracting for a new term of service after 1st October, 1906, will not draw either service or proficiency pay. All vested rights have, however, been scrupulously respected.

Ordnance Survey, Ireland—Military Superintendents deprived of their Sections.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he can state the number of military superintendents in the Ordnance Survey, Ireland, that have been deprived of the charge of sections during the past twelve months; and if he can state the number of confidential reports made by each of such superintendents for the previous six months respecting the civilian employees under their charge.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) Two military superintendents of field parties in Ireland were deprived of their charge for inefficiency during the last twelve months. One of them had no civil employees under his charge during the previous six months, and the other made only one confidential report during that period.

Local Control of Irish Ordnance Survey.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he can state whether it was contemplated that after a period of five years from the 1st January, 1908, the Irish Ordnance Survey should be placed under local control; and whether the Irish branch of this service is directed by the Valuation Commissioners to meet their requirements from time to time.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) No such change as my hon. friend suggests is in contemplation. The Commissioner of Valuation is constantly in communication with the Survey officers, and suitable arrangements are made to meet his requirements.

Sheep Dipping.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what, having regard to Sheep Dipping Order of 1907, a person or owner of sheep must do when driving sheep through unfenced fields or commons in which there is a public road or thoroughfare (and other sheep are grazing in such fields or commons) in the event of sheep belonging to different owners becoming mixed with each other; whether both lots of sheep must be left together on the land in which they got mixed for ten days and be dipped previous to removal; and whether both parties will be deemed guilty of an offence under the Order if either party should remove such sheep previous to the time stated in the order.

MR. RENDALL: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, how, having regard to the Sheep Dipping Order of 1907, farmers or dealers are to manage when sending sheep a long distance to a fair, market, sale, or otherwise, by the highway, if they cannot rest them and have them fed on some person's land or premises; whether they are compelled to keep them for several days on the highway without proper food and comfort, or, if the sheep are given rest on any premises or fields, must they be detained ten days and dipped previous to removal; whether the owner of the land or premises must give notice to the local authority previous to such removal, and in the event of non-compliance are both parties liable under the Act of 1894, especially having regard to the fact that the exemptions given in the Order only apply to sheep moved by railway without being untrucked within the area and those for exhibition.

MR. RENDALL: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what is to happen if sheep belonging to neighbours trespass and accidentally get together; whether both lots of sheep must be dipped previous to those trespassing being restored to the rightful owner; and, if not, whether both parties are liable under the Dipping Order of 1907.

MR. RENDALL: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, under the Sheep Dipping Order of 1907, no one can take sheep from a farm to a washpool which may be on another farm without being liable to proceedings under the Order.

MR. RENDALL: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, having regard to the hardships inflicted on dealers, farmers, and butchers, through there not being sufficient and proper exemptions provided by the Sheep Dipping Order of 1907, and through the difficulty of interpreting it, he will have the Order amended, or cause to be prepared and supplied gratis to those interested, an explanatory treatise on the Order.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) It will be convenient for me to reply at the same time to this and the four succeeding Questions standing in the name of my hon. friend. It was necessary, in order to secure the general dipping of sheep in the area to which the Sheep Dipping (England) Order applies, that provision should be made for preventing so far as is practicable the contact of dipped with undipped sheep; but whether in any particular instance such contact will necessitate any further dipping, or expose an owner to legal proceedings, must depend upon the circumstances of the particular case. This, in the first instance, is a matter for the consideration of the local authority concerned. The Board do not consider that the temporary detention for rest and feeding of sheep which are being moved by road is in itself to be regarded as involving the requirements of dipping. The Order expressly provides for the movement of sheep from a place of detention for the purpose of dipping, and it empowers local authorities to grant exemptions from the dipping requirements where the circumstances render it impracticable or inexpedient to enforce them. It rests with the local authorities to enforce the Order and to make its requirements known to those concerned, and full information has been supplied to those authorities for the purpose of enabling them to discharge their duties in this respect

Postal Delays at Rockchapel, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General, in reference to the complaints concerning irregular delivery of mails at Rockchapel, county Cork, whether the postal authorities are aware that on 31st ultimo the mails were one hour and ten minutes late, and on the 1st instant one hour and thirty-five minutes late; and whether steps will be taken to ensure punctual delivery in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) On the 31st ultimo the mails were forty minutes late in reaching Rockchapel, the delay being caused partly by the late arrival of the train at Abbeyfeals, and partly by an accident to the postman's bicycle. On the 1st instant the delay was one hour and twenty minutes, and was due to the work on that occasion being exceptionally heavy. The hon. Member may be assured that I will take steps to secure as far as possible the punctuality of the service to Rockchapel.

Women Sanitary Inspectors.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state how many women have passed during the last ten years the examination required to qualify for a sanitary inspector; and how many sanitary authorities have appointed a female sanitary inspector on their staff.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) It is only in London that a sanitary inspector is required by law to be the holder of a certificate granted by a body approved by the Local Government Board to the effect that he has by examination shown himself competent for such office. I understand that the number of women who have passed the qualifying examination during the ten years ended 31st December last, is about 216, and that the number of metropolitan borough councils who have appointed one or more female sanitary inspectors is twenty-two.

Printing of Maps for Irish Congested Districts Board in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state why the maps for the Congested Districts Board Commission are not being printed in Ireland; and whether there has been any delay in having this Irish work carried out at Southampton.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. The maps referred to involved colour printing, for which no arrangements exist in Ireland, and they were therefore printed at Southampton. There was a slight delay in the case of one of the maps, as the only machines available for the purpose were being occupied with a more urgent order from another Department, but this was in no way due to the maps being printed at Southampton rather than in Dublin.

Extra Police at Kanturk.

MR. FLYNN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that for the past two years three policemen have been stationed in an outhouse on the farm of Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Melchera, Kanturk, county Cork; if he can say on what district does the charge for these extra police fall; is the Inspector General of Constabulary aware that this farmer, who is not unpopular, attends to his ordinary business at fairs and markets unattended by any policemen; and, if so, whether, in view of the peaceable condition of the Kanturk district, where the Recorder was quite recently presented with white gloves as a mark of the crimelessness of the locality, these extra policemen will be withdrawn from this unnecessary duty.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is the fact that for the past two years three policemen have been stationed on Mr. O'Brien's farm in order to provide for his protection. No charge is made upon local authorities in respect of these men. The condition of the district of Kanturk generally has of late much improved, but, in the opinion of the police authorities, it is still necessary to afford police protection to Mr. O'Brien.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Application of Mr. O'Rourke.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from an evicted tenant named O'Rourke, residing at Kilbaylet, county Wicklow; and, if so, whether any steps are being taken to reinstate him or to provide him with a farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners cannot trace the receipt of an application from the person named. If further particulars of the application should be given a further search will be made.

Gambling in Wheat.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that owing to the international gambling operations in options and futures of American wheat its price has already advanced in about three weeks some 20 to 30 cents; that this has caused a rise in all cereals and food stuffs, and that in consequence the price of flour in most parts of the United Kingdom has already been advanced from 3s. to 5s. per sack, and that the 4lb. loaf has also been advanced from ½d. to 1d.; and, if so, what steps does His Majesty's Government intend to take in order to safeguard the masses of this country in the future, especially in case of war, from advances in the prime necessities of life caused by these international gambling operations in fictitious food stuffs through option and future contracts.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) His Majesty's Government are not prepared to take action in this matter.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. Andromeda.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the date on which H.M.S. "Andromeda" last went to sea since the naval manœuvres of last year, viz., 1906

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): The 28th May.

Closing of Coastguard Stations.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state the number of coastguard stations that have been closed since the commencement of this year, and the number of men who have been reduced or dismissed in consequence of the closing of these coastguard stations.

*MR. LAMBERT: Three stations and seven detachments have been closed since the commencement of the year. Those changes affected thirty-two men, who have all been transferred to fill vacancies at other stations caused by normal wastage. No men have been dismissed in consequence of the closing of any coastguard stations.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): Which are the three stations that have been closed, in view of the promise given by the Secretary to the Admiralty that no station should be closed until the question had been fully discussed in this House?

*MR. LAMBERT: I must ask for notice of the Question.

Life-Saving Apparatus on the Coast.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what provision he proposes to make to insure the maintenance of the old standard and the old numbers of life-saving apparatus along the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland which have been depleted by reason of the reduction of coastguard stations and coastguardsmen.

*MR. LAMBERT: The number of life-saving stations will not be affected by any reduction in the number of coastguard stations and coastguardsmen.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON: Has any provision been made for maintaining the standard at the places where coastguard stations have been closed?

*MR. LAMBERT: Notice has been given to the Board of Trade, which is the Department concerned.

Provision for aged Government Dockyard Employees.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what steps, if any, have been taken to provide old-age pensions for the aged employees of his Department at Deptford, Chatham, Greenwich, and Portsmouth, in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the House of Commons on 6th March, 1893.

*MR. LAMBERT: The Resolution referred to did not require the Admiralty to provide old-age pensions for aged employees, nor was it limited to the four establishments mentioned. I may add that since the date of the Resolution the hours of labour have been reduced, wages have been generally increased, notably during the last year, and insurance against accident has been provided by the Government scheme, which is more favourable to the workmen than the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Destroyers Fit for Sea.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what percentage of destroyers would be available to put to sea within twenty-four hours of the declaration of war.

*MR. LAMBERT: It is not in the public interest to answer a question of this character.

*CAPTAIN FABER: Is it not the fact that only seventy out of 120 destroyers would be fit for sea?

[No Answer was returned.]

H.M.S. "Wear."

*CAPTAIN FABER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state why there were no three-sixteenth inch plates available at Portsmouth with which to repair the torpedo destroyer "Wear," on the occasion of her collision with the "Etna" merchant ship.

*MR. LAMBERT: It had not hitherto been thought necessary to keep a reserve of these plates. Steps are now being taken to secure an adequate reserve.

*CAPTAIN FABER asked how long the ship was kept in port in consequence.

*MR. LAMBERT asked for notice of the Question.

Sale of War Office Land at Dumbartonshire.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland what was the valuation for rating before the sale took place of the 52 acres at Kilcreggan, Dumbartonshire, sold to the War Office, or, if they were not separately valued, what were the valuation and area of the farm of which they formed part; and what are now the valuations for rating of that area of 52 acres and of the rest of that farm respectively.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The valuation of 52 acres at Kilcreggan sold to the War Department was, prior to sale, £60; the present *ex gratia* contribution to rates remains on £60 basis. The original valuation of the entire farm—470 acres, including eight cottages—was £162. The present valuation of the remaining portion is £102, including eight cottages.

Warrant Officers' Pensions.

*MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the regulation which prevents a warrant officer from commuting any part of his pension before the age of fifty-five puts him at a disadvantage as compared with commissioned and non-commissioned officers; and whether, having regard to the increasing difficulty of elderly men in finding employment and the fact that a little capital might afford a warrant officer a means to a livelihood, he can see his way to give to them an opportunity for commutation similar to that now enjoyed either by non-commissioned or by commissioned officers.

MR. HALDANE: This matter, which is by no means free from difficulty, is now receiving careful consideration.

Plague in India.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford); I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has yet received answers to his questions addressed to the Government of India relating to the numbers of medical men engaged in combating the plague.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I have not yet received the return. The figures may take some little time to collect.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will give the House the weekly Returns of death from plague during May for each province in India.

MR. MORLEY: The deaths returned for the weeks ending 4th, 11th and 18th May respectively are for all India 77,772, 82,400 and 67,512. Later figures have not yet been received. I shall be very willing to communicate the provincial Returns for those weeks to the hon. Member, or to place them in the Library.

The Unrest in India.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Government advocate, Mr. Alweyne Turner, in opposing the application for bail of the five barristers arrested as a result of the Rawal Pindi riots, that the extracts from the speeches of the accused were not taken down verbatim by a shorthand writer on the spot, but were written afterwards from memory; and, if so, what steps will be taken to assure the public in this country and in India that, in this and other cases of like character, prosecution will be based upon evidence of a more definite and accurate nature.

MR. MORLEY: I am aware that the speeches made at meetings of this kind in India have not hitherto been taken down by shorthand writers. It is one of the objects of the Regulation of Meetings Ordinance, issued by the Governor-General on the 11th May, to obtain a more authentic report of the proceedings at such meetings in future.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the agitation in which Lala Rajpat Rai was engaged was totally different in character from that to which Ajit Singh devoted his services; whether his attention has been drawn to the article written by Rajpat Rai two hours before his arrest, stating the grounds upon which the agitation was based; whether in any meetings a shorthand writer was present to report speeches made by Rajpat Rai; and upon what evidence, definite or otherwise, his arrest and deportation was ordered.

MR. MORLEY: The Answer to the first and third Questions is in the negative: that to the second in the affirmative: as to the fourth, I must refer my hon. friend to the statement I made in this House on Thursday last.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): Has the right hon. Gentleman any information in his hands to confirm the statement he made last Thursday to the effect that the speeches of Rajpat Rai were very greatly dominated by sedition, and that they were published broadcast, even on the floor of this House.

MR. MORLEY: I must really ask my hon. friend to accept it from me that I am very unlikely to make statements on the floor of this House without having provided myself with fair and reasonable confirmation.

SIR H. COTTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay the facts of the case on the Table of the House?

Mr. MORLEY: I think anything more injudicious from the point of view of Government and of law and order than that which the hon. Gentleman suggests cannot be imagined.

Mr. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the first detailed Report on the Comilla riots, and the subsequent Report and explanations called for by the local Government, are yet in hand; and, if so, will the Reports and Correspondence be laid upon the Table of the House, and when.

Mr. MORLEY: I have received the first detailed Report of the local Government on the disturbance at Comilla, but not the further Report. As I stated last Thursday, the disturbances resulted in several cases which were tried in open Court, and the proceedings were published in the newspapers. I do not, therefore, consider it necessary to lay any Papers on the Table.

Mr. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is the intention of the Indian Government at any time to formulate a definite legal charge against Lala Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, and to give them an opportunity of meeting the charge in a Court of justice; and, if not, for what length of time it is proposed to keep them in banishment and confinement.

Mr. MORLEY: I am unable at present to make any statement as to the intentions of the Government of India in respect of the matters referred to in the Question.

Mr. MACKARNESS: Can the right hon. Gentleman say when he will be in a position to make any statement?

Mr. MORLEY: No, I am afraid I cannot.

Mr. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, under Section 527 of the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure, the Governor-General in Council has power to direct the transfer of any particular criminal case from one High Court to another; and, if so, whether it is possible for the Government of India, by making use of this provision, to have Lala Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh tried for their alleged offences without any danger to public law and order.

Mr. MORLEY: The section referred to confers the power to transfer cases mentioned in the Question. I have already explained why it is not thought advisable to have Lala Rajpat Rai and Ajit Singh brought to trial, and I do not consider that these reasons would be less valid if the trial were held in any other part of India.

Punjab Land Revenue.

Mr. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state how much of the 150 per cent. increase in the total land revenue of the Punjab from £636,229 in 1855 to £1,604,609 in 1905 has been obtained from lands brought under canal irrigation since 1855.

Mr. MORLEY: The hon. Member has not noticed the fact that the increase in land revenue in the Punjab, between 1855 and 1905, is partly due to a transfer of territory from the North-Western Provinces to the Punjab. Allowing for this, the increase is not 150 per cent., but about 40 per cent. But it is impossible to say with any approach to accuracy how much of this increase is obtained from lands brought under irrigation since 1855. During the last thirty years alone the area irrigated from permanent State canals has increased six-fold, or from 750,000 to 4,500,000 acres.

Mr. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman if the produce grown by the poor Indian peasant is taxed 50 per cent., while manufactured goods and luxuries for the rich get off free?

*Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Chenab Canal.

Mr. C. J. O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the net profit on the £1,836,075 capital of the Chenab Canal, near which the new Colonies affected by the Colonisation Bill are chiefly situated, was, exclusive of land revenue, £399,214, or 21·76 per centum in last financial year; and whether he will direct a reduction of the water rates.

Mr. MORLEY: The water rates on the Chenab Canal are not higher than the rates levied on other large canals in the Punjab, and, judging from the demand for land in the colony and its high selling value, the rates appear to be considered moderate by the cultivators. The reason why the Chenab Canal is an exceptionally profitable undertaking is that the area irrigated by it is very large and the supply of water abundant; but the fact that the profits are large is not in itself a sufficient reason for a reduction of rates.

Mr. C. J. O'DONNELL: Is it not a fact that the total amount charged on the land in the Punjab is now four times what it was fifty years ago?

Mr. MORLEY: I am afraid I have not the figures here.

Zulu Prisoners at St. Helena.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give any information as to the number, rank, and colour of the warders who are to form the guard of the penal settlement at St. Helena.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W): I understand that the Government of Natal is sending two European warders with the prisoners. The Governor of St. Helena will engage locally any extra warders required.

Intoxicating Liquors in the New Hebrides.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can now announce the result of his inquiries into the alleged importation of intoxicating liquors into the New Hebrides.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State communicated with Mr. Deakin, who stated that the Proclamation mentioned in the reply which I gave to the hon. and gallant Member on the 23rd April prohibits the exportation of intoxicating liquors from any port in Australia to the New Hebrides, except under such conditions as will ensure their being for the legitimate use of white settlers only, and in moderate quantities; and that the Customs officials in Australia have been fully instructed to that effect. It was possible, however, that liquor might be taken to New Caledonia from Europe *via* Australian ports, ultimately for the New Hebrides, and in that case it could not be reached by the Proclamation of the Commonwealth Government. Mr. Deakin has promised to cause inquiries to be made into the matter on his return to Australia.

St. Helena—Assisted Emigration.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what decision has now been come to as to future measures in the direction of assisted emigration for the inhabitants of St. Helena.

Mr. CHURCHILL: No decision has been taken as to future measures, but 100 men have been engaged for mining work in the Cape Colony and left the island on the 21st of May.

The Transvaal Loan.

*Captain FABER: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can state at what rate of interest the loan lately promised to General Botha for the Transvaal will be issued; and whether it is proposed that the issue of this loan shall be before or after the repatriation of the Chinese coolies.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The terms of issue of the proposed loan will be made known in due course. The repatriation of Chinese coolies will begin shortly, and will probably be in progress before any part of the loan is issued.

*Captain FABER: Is this loan guaranteed by the British Government?

Mr. CHURCHILL: An announcement has already been made that when, and if, a loan of this character has passed the Transvaal Legislature, His Majesty's Government are not opposed in principle to giving the necessary guarantee which has been asked for.

*CAPTAIN FABER: Why should this loan be issued more cheaply than the Cape Colony loan?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have not discussed at all the question of the price.

CAPTAIN FABER: It must be if it is guaranteed.

*MR. GEORGE FABER (York) asked whether, considering the collapse in Consols, the disorganised state of the stock markets, and the impossibility of further issuing the Irish loan except at a disastrous figure, and considering further——

*MR. SPEAKER: That Question seems to me to be in the nature of a series of arguments.

*MR. GEORGE FABER: I was leading up to a conclusion; I would ask whether the Prime Minister will consider the advisability of deferring the issue of this loan till a more favourable time?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The usual preface to a Question of that sort is "arising out of that," but I do not see that the Question arises out of the Answer, or any other Answer.

*MR. GEORGE FABER: It arises very much out of it.

MR. HUNT: May I ask the Prime Minister whether the Transvaal Government has promised to send back any of the Chinese at the end of their three years contracts?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That is another conundrum that does not appear to arise out of the Question.

New Hebrides Convention.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what were the terms of reference to the Anglo-French Commission which has been recently considering questions arising out of the New Hebrides Convention.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Anglo-French Committee met recently to consider the arrangements for the salaries, leave, etc., of the members of the Joint Court, as provided for in Article 10, Section 4, of the Convention of October last.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Have the French Government expressed any wish that the terms of the reference shall be kept secret?

SIR EDWARD GREY: There were no terms of reference. The Committee met simply to deal with Article 10, Section 4, and if the hon. Member will look at that he will see no terms of reference were required.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Is nothing else to be dealt with by the Committee?

SIR EDWARD GREY: As far as the Committee is concerned that is the only point they have to deal with. Other matters will be dealt with between the two Governments.

Germany and the United States Tariff.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have obtained any official assurance from the United States Government that any modifications of the Dingley tariff in favour of Germany will, under the most-favoured-nation clause, be extended to Great Britain.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether representations have been made to the United States Government with the view of securing to British Chambers of Commerce the same powers for the valuation of exports to the United States as have been granted to German Chambers of Commerce; and what is the result of such representations.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have received an official assurance from the United States Government in the following terms:—"The administrative provisions set forth in the commercial agreement between Germany and the United States are intended to be applicable to all countries. The provisions which relate to the accrediting of special agents, their co-operation with Chambers of Commerce and the acceptance of certificates of Chambers of Commerce as to value as competent evidence in terms relate specifically to Germany. The Government of the United States does not, however, wish to make them a basis of discrimination against any other country, and is quite ready to make them applicable to Great Britain, so far as the conditions in that country permit, if the Government of Great Britain so desires." As the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh was informed yesterday, I am in communication with the Board of Trade as to making arrangements to fulfil the conditions required.

Great Britain and the Dingley Tariff Law.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in view of the announcement by the State Department at Washington that, before admitting Great Britain to any benefits under Section 3 of the Dingley Tariff Law, the President must be satisfied that Great Britain has some advantage to offer constituting true reciprocity, he can state what reciprocal advantage Great Britain has to offer under the present fiscal conditions.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot make any statement at present on this particular point, and must refer the hon. Member to my Answer of to-day to the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if an Anglo-American agreement, under Section 3 of the Dingley Act, was discussed by the Government of the United States six months ago, and has not been taken up since; if so, will he say if the discussion was dropped because the express terms of the Dingley Act require that the President must be satisfied that Great Britain has something to offer to the United States constituting true reciprocity; and if he still entertains any hope of being able, by virtue of the most-favoured-nation clause, or otherwise, to secure for Great Britain, in respect of Treasury and Consular rulings, the advantages which Germany has secured.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the first Question is approximately correct. The Answer to the second is in the negative. The Answer to the third is in the affirmative; it is being given to-day to the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh. The hon. Member is, of course, aware that the administrative changes which have been, or are about to be, made have nothing to do with Section 3 of the United States Tariff Act.

France and Sierra Leone.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state whether any negotiations are pending with France with reference to the cession of Sierra Leone and its hinterland in return for the cession of French interests in the New Hebrides.

SIR EDWARD GREY: As I stated yesterday I had not heard this Question suggested before the statement appeared in the Press the other day, and the Answer is in the negative.

British Residents' Property in China.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that the Domicile Act of 1861 has not been applied to China, any means exist for protecting the interests of relatives of British subjects dying in China and preventing trouble with the estates of such persons.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The existing means for protecting the estates of British subjects dying in China, and for protecting the interests of the relatives, are as complete as in a British Possession, as, owing to the fact that His Majesty exercises extra-territorial jurisdiction in that country, the estates are administered in the British Courts.

Great Britain and Russia—Indian Frontier Negotiations.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what part of the frontiers of the British Empire are now under review or consideration by His Majesty's Government and the Government of Russia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am unable to make any statement on this subject at present, but the Questions under discussion are connected with the frontier of India.

British Fiscal Policy.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the United States Government have expressed their willingness to negotiate with Great Britain with reference to granting special rates on articles imported under the third section of the Dingley Law; and whether, seeing that under our existing fiscal system Great Britain has nothing to offer the United States in exchange for the concessions desired, His Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of placing this country in a position to bargain with the United States for the concession of reciprocal advantages which are enjoyed by other competing countries.

Sir EDWARD GREY: Negotiations are already in progress. The last part of the Question contains a statement which I cannot admit, and a suggestion that a complete change of the fiscal policy of this country should be made in order to secure reductions of duties on such articles as statuary, pictures, etc., which comprise the limited list affected by the Dingley Law referred to: I cannot think this would be a wise course.

Egyptian Civil Service—Plurality of Appointments.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state the number of individuals in the service of the Egyptian Government who hold more than one Government appointment; if so, how many; on what grounds the plurality of offices is held; and what are the emoluments attaching to each of the posts of such persons.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The only justification for making such an inquiry would be the presumption that some abuse exists I am not aware of any justification for it.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON: May I ask how we can ever discover whether abuse exists without making an inquiry?

Sir EDWARD GREY: Unless there were a presumption that abuse exists, I should have thought inquiry unnecessary.

Egyptian Primary School Curriculum.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that Lord Cromer complains, in his Reports for 1904, pages 72, 73, and 1905, page 86, that private primary schools in Egypt copy the Europeanised curriculum of the Government schools, to the prejudice of vernacular education, and whereas it is only by such imitation that private schools can secure for their pupils certificates enabling them to compete for Government or other employment, he will advise the Egyptian Government to substitute for its present school curriculum a system of teaching and certificates which shall meet the needs at once of the Government service and the Egyptian people.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Egyptian Government are fully alive to the educational needs of the country, and are making every effort to meet them. I consider that no useful purpose would be served by the interference of His Majesty's Government.

Egyptian Registered Letter Despatches.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg t ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs why the registration fee for letters despatched from Egypt to the United Kingdom is 2½d. (one p.t.), whereas that for letters despatched from the United Kingdom to Egypt is only 2d.; what was the number of letters registered in Egypt for transmission to the United Kingdom during the year 1906; is the extra charge retained by the Egyptian Postal Administration, or is it divided, and in what proportions, between the countries through which registered letters from Egypt to the United Kingdom are transmitted; and whether, seeing that the net revenue of the Postal Department for the year 1906 is approximately £E240,000, an increase of £E34,000 over the previous year, and is estimated at £E260,000 for 1907, he will advise the Egyptian Government to equalise the rate of postage between the countries above named.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I will inquire as to the facts. Reductions of postage are always welcome, but I cannot promise to ask the Egyptian Government to make a sacrifice of revenue without knowing what other considerations may be involved.

Egyptian Government School Teachers.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether British teachers in Egyptian Government schools and other British officials attached to the Ministry of Public Instruction are required to show any proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing current Egyptian Arabic prior to their appointment; and, if such be the case, how many candidates have so qualified during each of the five years last past; if they be not required so to qualify until after their appointment, what is the period of probation allowed by the regulations, if any; when were such regulations introduced; have they a retroactive effect; how many have passed the tests annually during the last five years; are those who fail allowed to present themselves again and what number of times, and at what intervals; and how many such failures have taken place.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Question of the hon. Member contains seven different questions, some of them of minute detail. I will make a general inquiry as to what knowledge of Arabic is required of the British officials referred to as a condition of their employment, and how this is fulfilled.

New Hebrides.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): On behalf of the hon. Member for Darlington, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any further information to give the House in regard to the New Hebrides Convention; have any fundamental alterations been made in the recent arrangements; and can he state what was the result of the negotiations in regard to Sierra Leone.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the first and second parts of the Question is in the negative. As I have already stated, the rumours as to negotiations about Sierra Leone are without foundation.

Egyptian Civil Administration—Salaries and Pensions.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how many British inspectors of the Slave Trade Repression Department in Egypt have been appointed during the years 1905 and 1906, and at what salaries.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the salaries and what is the rate of pension payable to Native and British Judges, respectively, officiating in the Egyptian mixed Courts and in the Native civil and criminal Courts and to the Judges of Mahomedan ecclesiastical Courts; when were the salaries of the Judges of the Native civil and criminal and Mahomedan ecclesiastical Courts fixed; within what period, if at all, and by how much have they been augmented; and upon what system are their pensions calculated.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I will inquire. I have no information at present.

Taxation on Alcoholic Drinks.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the present taxation in respect of beer, wine, and spirit duties and licences for the sale of liquors, per head of population, and per gallon of proof alcohol, in the United Kingdom, the States of Massachusetts, New York, and Michigan, respectively.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): In the United Kingdom, on an estimated population of 43,643,000, the average taxation in respect of alcoholic drinks, including licences, is approximately 17s. 7d. per head. The alcoholic strength of beer and wine varies considerably, and there are no statistics of the quantities at each degree of strength which would enable the number of gallons of proof alcohol to be given with any accuracy. I have no official statistics which would enable me to give the information asked for with respect to the American States mentioned by the hon. and learned Member.

Trade Unions and the Post Office Savings Bank.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has yet had time to consider the question of the limit of deposits of trade unions in the Post Office Savings Bank; and, if so, will he make a statement on the matter.

MR. ASQUITH: I am advised that there is no legal obstacle to allowing trade unions the benefit of the Savings Banks (Charitable Societies) Act, 1859, which enables provident institutions and societies to invest their funds in the savings banks without restriction as to amount, with the approval of the National Debt Commissioners and subject to such regulations as they may prescribe. In view of the financial considerations involved, the National Debt Commissioners would hesitate to sanction the deposit of the whole of the large funds in the possession of trade unions. I understand, however, that it is not urged by the unions themselves that this should be permitted; their views would be met by the acceptance of deposits within the extended limits of £250 in any one year and £1,000 in the aggregate. I have under consideration the issue of regulations by the Commissioners to permit of the acceptance of deposits under such conditions. It would of course be understood that the right to exact ten days' notice of withdrawals, which exists as regards all deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks under Section 3 of the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1861, might have to be specially enforced in regard to withdrawals by trade unions.

MR. BARNES: Do these regulations and limits refer to each branch of a trade union, or to the union as a whole?

*MR. ASQUITH: To each branch separately.

Post Office Savings Bank Depositors and Consols.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that when the books of the depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank are returned after the annual inspection a notice or leaflet is generally put in them recommending the purchase of Consols by the depositor, that this advice is frequently acted upon, and that dissatisfaction is now being expressed by those who now have to realise at a loss; and whether he will consider the advisability of discontinuing the practice until Consols are a less fluctuating security.

MR. ASQUITH: The assumption that, when deposit books are returned after the annual examination, a notice or leaflet is enclosed recommending the purchase of Consols by the depositor is incorrect. Occasionally, a depositor, in forwarding his book for examination, makes some inquiry as to the facilities afforded for investment in Government Stock, and a printed notice explaining the arrangements is then sent to him with his book. This notice, so far from making any recommendation, expressly states that the Postmaster-General cannot undertake to advise depositors as to their transactions and that he cannot, of course, be held responsible for any losses which may be sustained by them if there should be a fall in the price of stock between the dates of purchase and sale.

Wine Duties.

MR. WALROND (Devonshire, Tiverton): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there have been any recent adjustments in the wine duties according to the alcoholic strength of those wines; and, if so, will he give particulars.

MR. ASQUITH: There have been no alterations in the duties on imported wines since the Finance Act, 1899.

Alcoholic Strength of Imported Wines.

MR. WALROND: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state what is the average alcoholic strength of the wines respectively imported from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Australia.

MR. ASQUITH: The only materials available for supplying the information asked for by the hon. Member are those contained in the annual Parliamentary Return of Wines Imported (House of Commons 81 of 1907). The estimated average alcoholic stength of wines imported in cask from the countries mentioned is:—

France	-	19·36 degrees.
Spain -	-	28·83 „
Portugal	-	35·04 „
Italy -	-	26·49 „
Australia	-	25·62 „

As explained in the foot-note to the Return to which I have referred, there is practically no information as to the exact strength of wines imported in bottle, and the figures I have given are only approximately correct as regards wines in cask.

Rate Defaulters in Gaol.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rate defaulters were summoned; how many of them suffered distraint; and how many of them suffered imprisonment, during 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The figures are not in existence, the prison records not distinguishing rate defaulters from other civil debtors. Even if the figures could be given correctly by the magistrates' clerks throughout the country—which I doubt—I do not think the information to be obtained is sufficiently valuable to justify the great labour that would be involved in collecting it.

Motor Omnibus Traffic in London.

MR. WATT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that some, if not all, of the motor omnibuses in London do their journeys as often as possible in the day and not a specified number of times; that conductors and drivers are paid on their drawings; that the system leads to loss of life and limb; and if he will take steps to alter it.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am given to understand that motor omnibuses in London have to run according to time tables. I am not aware that the wages of drivers or conductors are based on the earnings of the vehicles.

Administration of the Dogs Act in Warwickshire.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the Report presented to the Standing Joint Police Committee of Warwickshire by the Chief Constable on 29th April last, in which it was stated that the period of detention required by the Dogs Act of 1906 was far too long, and that he had, on his own responsibility, ordered dogs to be destroyed after three or four days detention; and whether, in view of this breach of Section 3 (2) of the Dogs Act of 1906, he will, with a view to the better administration of the Act in Warwickshire, consider the advisability of issuing a circular pointing out the provisions contained in the Act.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have seen the report referred to by my hon. friend. The Chief Constable states that dogs of any value and dogs wearing collars with an address are invariably kept the seven days prescribed by Section 3 (4) of the Act, but worthless dogs with no collar are destroyed at the end of three or four days. This has been the practice in Warwickshire for many years, and there have been no complaints. Persons living near police stations are often much annoyed by the barking of dogs which are kept by the police, and it was to mitigate this nuisance that the instructions were given. I have called the Chief Constable's attention to the fact that he is not authorised by the Act to destroy any dog before the expiration of seven days, and that he renders himself liable to pay damages to the owner of any dog so killed.

Metropolitan Police.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any opportunity will be afforded on the Home Office Vote for the consideration of the pay, hours of work, and holidays of the Metropolitan Police.

MR. GLADSTONE: The proper place for discussing this subject would be on the Police Vote. I am not in a position to say what time will be allotted for the discussion of the several Votes for which I am responsible, but that will no doubt be arranged in the usual manner.

West Riding Higher Education Rate.

*MR. CLOUGH: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has yet received a communication from the Board of Education concerning the appeal of the West Riding County Council to substitute a 3d. for the 2d. limit upon the rate for higher education, imposed by the Education Act, 1902; whether he can yet state his decision; and whether that decision is favourable to the substitution.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have not at present received a reply from the Board of Education.

*MR. CLOUGH: Arising out of that Answer, will the right hon. Gentleman give the President of the Board of Education a nudge in regard to this matter?

Underground Cables in Scotland.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what decision he has come to with regard to the construction of underground telegraph cables in Scotland.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): As I have already informed the House in the discussion on the Post Office estimates, the underground wire between Glasgow and Edinburgh is being proceeded with. I cannot at present say how far the line can be carried in the present financial year.

Cunarders.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when the Cunard fast steamers which are subsidised by the British Government will be ready to compete for the Atlantic passenger traffic, the bulk of which is now divided between the White Star and other American lines and the German lines.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): The Board of Trade are informed by the Cunard Company that the "Lusitania" is expected to be ready for her trials some time next month, and the "Mauretania" some months later. The vessels will be placed on the Atlantic service as early as possible after the trials are over. The suggestion in the last part of the Question that the White Star is an American line has already been repudiated by my right hon. friend in his reply to the hon. Member's Question on the 27th May.†

Sugar Exports.

LORD BALCARRES: On behalf of the hon. Member for Darlington I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the average exportation in the three years ending 1903 and 1906 of refined sugar, sugar goods (confectionery, jams, etc.), and mineral waters respectively.

MR. KEARLEY: I will have the information asked for printed in the Votes.

The following is the information printed in the Votes:—The quantities exported were as follows:

Statement showing the Average Quantity and Value of Refined Sugar, Sugar Goods (Confectionery, Jams, Preserves, etc.) and Aerated Waters of United Kingdom Produce, exported during the undermentioned periods:—

Description of Article.	Annual Average Quantity Exported.	
	1901–3	1904–6.
	Cwts.	Cwts.
Sugar, Refined and Candy - - - -	767,171	701,071
Sugar goods:		
(Confectionery, Jams, Preserved Fruit, etc.)	320,917	362,004
Aerated Waters - - - - - - -	Doz. Bottles 868,643	Doz. Bottles 1,108,191

Suez Canal Dues.

LORD BALCARRES: On behalf of the hon. Member for Darlington I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can give particulars as to the remission of Suez Canal dues by the Austrian Government on Austrian shipping passing through the canal; what is the total amount of the dues remitted in a recent year; and what proportion this bears to the total which such shipping would have had to pay had there been no remission.

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† See (4) *Debates* clxxiv., 1322.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade will take steps to procure the information desired by the hon. Member.

Salterhebble School.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education on what dates the plans for a new Church of England school at Salterhebble were finally sanctioned by the Board of Education and the local education authority; and on what date the Board of Education decided to discontinue the grant.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The plans were approved by the Board on the 26th March, 1906. I am not able to say on what date they were sanctioned by the local authority. The Board informed the local authority on the 1st May, 1907, that they would not interfere with their decision to discontinue maintenance.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: Did not the date sanctioned by the local authority form part of the subject which the right hon. Gentleman said he had carefully considered in deciding the case?

MR. MCKENNA: I must ask for notice of that. I have no recollection of having said it.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he has been informed that a competent firm of architects, on 4th June, stated, with reference to the Salterhebble Church school, that they had had the building under observation for some considerable time, and had no hesitation in stating that there was no foundation for the suggestion that it is in either an insanitary or an unsafe condition, and that it would have been waste of time to spend money on the repairs, in view of the intended rebuilding scheme; and if it is customary for the Board of Education to take extreme measures as to repairs when money is ready and plans approved for complete rebuilding.

MR. MCKENNA: The Answer to the first paragraph is in the negative; to the second that the Board's action must depend on the circumstances of each particular case.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman do me the favour to consider this Report if I send him a copy of it?

MR. MCKENNA: No, Sir. I have already considered a Report from my own architect, whom I regard as fully competent to decide this question. My views are therefore not open in the matter.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Why in this case did the right hon. Gentleman decide not to interfere with the decision of the local authority?

MR. MCKENNA: Because the school was declared by the architect to be dangerous and unhealthy.

LORD R. CECIL: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table of the House the Report on which he based his decision?

MR. MCKENNA: No, Sir.

LORD BALCARRES: Is it not the case that the building, having been condemned, was to be replaced by a modern structure, the plans of which were passed by the local education authority, and the money for which was paid into the bank?

MR. MCKENNA: The plans were approved by the Board on the 26th March, 1906.

Queen Victoria Memorial.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether the stone for the late Queen Victoria Memorial is being prepared by foreign workmen.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The work for the Queen Victoria Memorial is not under the charge of any Government Department, but is carried out by the Committee appointed to dispose of the fund which was raised by national subscription. I understand that marble which is being quarried for the purpose at Carrara is being prepared by the workmen on the spot before it is shipped to England.

Second Division Clerks.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, in view of the fact that an examination for seventy vacancies in the Second Division has been announced by the Civil Service Commissioners for 30th September next, whether he is aware that there are at present in the Department of the Accountant-General of the Navy thirty-one Second Division clerks borne temporarily in excess of the number on the authorised establishment; whether it is anticipated that such clerks will, in the ordinary course, be absorbed into the ranks of the permanent staff before the date of the examination; and, if not, whether he will state what reasons there are for holding the examination whilst there are in existence such temporarily borne Second Division clerks as those referred to.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): I am informed that the examination for Second Division clerkships which is announced to take place in September next is not for the purpose of filling existing vacancies, but is for the purpose of providing for the anticipated requirements of the public service for some months after the result of that examination has been ascertained. The circumstance that such an examination has been announced would not hinder the assignment to other Departments of such of the Second Division clerks now serving temporarily in the Department of the Accountant-General of the Navy as the Admiralty may from time to time be able to spare.

County Courts Bill.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General when the County Courts Bill [Lords] is likely to be presented to this House.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): I am afraid my hon. friend must address this Question to those in charge of the business in another House. It is impossible for me to say until the Bill reaches this House, which it has not yet done.

Ullapool Church Property Division.

SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities): On behalf of the hon. Member for the City of London who is engaged on a Grand Committee upstairs, I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been directed to the allocation of the church property at Ullapool to the United Free Church, notwithstanding the representation submitted to the Commissioners that the Sub-Commissioner had made an error in his Report, and that the Free Church had eighty more than the third required by the Act; and whether he will order a new inquiry.

MR. JOHN BURNS: On behalf of my right hon. friend who is similarly engaged and is, I presume, keeping an eye on the hon. Baronet, I have to say that this matter lies with a Royal Commission appointed by Parliament and my right hon. friend has no such power as is suggested.

Teachers' Superannuation Act.

SIR HENRY CRAIK: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the actuarial report upon the working of the Teachers' Superannuation Act has been received; and whether, and, if so, when, it will be laid before Parliament.

MR. JOHN BURNS (for Mr. SINCLAIR): The Report has not yet been received.

SIR HENRY CRAIK: Will the cases of England and Scotland in this matter be dealt with separately?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I cannot say. I will convey the Question to my right hon. friend.

Roscommon District Council Contracts.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state why the Local Government Board have no record that the Roscommon District Council have passed a resolution stating that they will give preference to Irish-made goods, seeing that this resolution was published in the local newspaper on 1st June.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The minutes of the proceedings of the Roscommon Rural District Council which were furnished to the Local Government Board contain no entry of any such resolution as is referred to in the Question.

Baleighter Grazing Dispute.

*SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will ascertain and report to this House why three farmers named Corcoran, Doyle, and Kelly came before the New Inn branch of the United Irish League on Sunday, 26th May, and surrendered their farms at Baleighter; whether such action was due to illegal pressure exercised by the League; whether his attention has been called to threats that if the graziers do not surrender their farms in the district the people are determined to clear all the grass farms in the parish; and, if so, what action he proposes to take thereon.

MR. BIRRELL: The three men named in the Question have informed the local police that, upon receiving letters asking them to attend a meeting of the branch referred to, they attended the meeting and promised to surrender their grazing farms. They have declined to give evidence of the fact or to produce the letters which they alleged they received. The police are aware that a statement to the effect mentioned in the latter part of the Question has been made. The police will take all possible measures to prevent the threat from being carried into effect.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman see that the Estates Commissioners do not proceed to deal with these farms by way of sale until intimidation in the district has ceased?

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir.

Clonfert Grazing Dispute.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Clonfert branch of the United Irish League has passed a resolution denouncing, by name, a grazier named Howard as a danger to the peace of the district; and whether he will engage that this man shall have peaceful possession of the property which he legally holds.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that a statement to the effect mentioned in the Question has appeared in a local newspaper, but they have reason to believe that no such resolution was passed. The police will afford Howard any protection that may be necessary.

Rodney Estate, Galway.

SIR F. BANBURY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the Rodney estate have refused to pay rent for their holdings until the estate has been handed over to the Estates Commissioners; that Mr. Kirwan, the agent for the said estates, was under police protection when he visited Athenry on Monday the 27th ultimo to collect rents; and whether he will engage that the landlord shall receive legal payment for his lands either from the tenants or the Estates Commissioners.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of this estate have been instituted before them, and they know nothing of the alleged withholding of rent. It is the fact that the agent received police protection when at Athenry on 27th May. Obviously I cannot give the undertaking suggested in the last part of the Question. If the facts are as stated, the usual legal remedies are open to the landlord.

Nationalist Magistrates.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that pressure is being brought to bear upon *ex officio* magistrates who are Nationalists to discharge their judicial functions in the interests of the persons accused of offences in connection with the agitation in the grazing districts; and whether, in view of the decisions of a majority of the magistrates in recent prosecutions, he intends to rely upon the Courts of petty sessions to support the executive power in upholding the law in the disturbed districts.

Mr. BIRRELL: My attention has been called to certain newspaper paragraphs which, if correct, indicate that the presence of individual magistrates on the Bench on particular occasions has been invited. The Lord Chancellor has intimated to certain *ex officio* magistrates who have attended petty sessions outside the districts for which they were appointed that if they should persist in such a course of action he will take steps to supersede them. *Ex officio* magistrates hold their office under the terms of an Act of Parliament, and I shall certainly rely upon Courts of petty sessions to uphold the law.

Mr. MOORE asked what action would be taken with regard to cases in which magistrates had adjudicated when they were not entitled to sit?

Mr. BIRRELL: That will depend on the circumstances of each case.

Mr. MOORE: Does the Lord Chancellor intend to limit the actions of ordinary magistrates?

Mr. BIRRELL: I must leave that to the Lord Chancellor to decide.

Mr. Luttrell's Farm.

Mr. BARRIE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has yet received official information showing that Mr. Luttrell was compelled to yield possession of his farm at Roscomroe in consequence of the intimidation of the United Irish League and the inadequate protection afforded him by the executive.

Mr. BIRRELL: I informed the hon. Member on 29th May that a force of twenty-five police was encamped on Mr. Luttrell's farm for the purpose of preventing interference with his cattle, which had been driven off on two occasions. Mr. Luttrell has not yet surrendered the farm, but has expressed his intention of surrendering it on the next gale day. In view of this fact the police have now been withdrawn. If Mr. Luttrell should carry out his expressed intention of surrendering his farm it will not be for want of adequate protection. The police authorities inform me that there is no evidence that Mr. Luttrell was intimidated by the United Irish League.

Crannagh Farm Boycott.

Mr. BARRIE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Haire, the holder of the Crannagh farm, is still boycotted, that on his going to the Roman Catholic church on a recent Sunday the greater part of the congregation left the building and waited for him outside, that on his leaving the church he was assaulted, and that the magistrates before whom the case was brought refused to convict his assailant; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Mr. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that John Haire, who holds a portion of the Crannagh farm, is not boycotted, but it has been found necessary to afford police protection to him and his family. Haire himself has not recently attended the Roman Catholic church, but on Sunday, 21st May, one of his sons when returning from the church was assaulted with an umbrella by a woman. The police prosecuted the offender, but the magistrates, who considered the offence to have been trivial, dismissed the case with a caution, the defendant having given an undertaking that she would not again interfere with the Haires. It is not intended to take further action in the case.

Carrick-on-Shannon Unlawful Assembly Trial.

Mr. BARRIE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the charges of unlawful assembly and intimidation, in connection with a cattle drive, which were brought against four men, at Carrick-on-Shannon petty sessions, on 31st May, were dismissed by a majority of the magistrates; and whether, in view of the character of the evidence, he intends to order further proceedings in this case.

MR. BIRRELL: The proceedings in question consisted in an application to bind the defendants to be of good behaviour, and this application was dismissed by a majority of the magistrates. The question whether further proceedings are to be taken is at present under consideration.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S): Did any magistrates deal with this case who were not entitled to sit?

MR. BIRRELL asked for notice of the Question.

Irish Poor Law Reform.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when he now expects to deal with the pressing matter of Poor Law reform in Ireland; and does he propose to proceed on the lines of the recent Commission's Report.

MR. BIRRELL: I am not yet in a position to add anything to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member's previous Question on this subject on 30th April.†

Galway Land Act Administration.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Galway County Council at their last quarterly meeting deferred payment of the costs of valuation as a protest against the manner in which estates in the county of Galway divided under the Land Act of 1903 have been left unrevised for a long period, so that the persons liable for the poor rates cannot be ascertained; whether he will instruct the Estates Commissioners when they have striped an estate to lodge with the Commissioner of Valuation full details, with maps, etc., of such estate; and whether he will instruct the Commissioner of Valuation on receipt of such information from the Estates Commissioners forthwith to send down an official from the Valuation Office to revise the valuation.

MR. BIRRELL: The Galway County Council have deferred payment of their contribution towards the cost of the annual revision of the valuation lists upon the ground that the Commissioner of Valuation has declined to revise valuations from time to time outside the annual revision provided for by the statute. Under the existing law the Commissioner of Valuation has power to issue revised valuation lists once a year only, namely, on or before 1st March. The Estates Commissioners have already made arrangements with the Commissioner of Valuation which enable him to ascertain the names of new proprietors and full particulars of the lands sold to them. I have no power to give the instructions suggested in the latter part of the Question. A revision of the valuation at any other time than that prescribed by law would not be possible.

Cow Mutilation at Muckenagh.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called by the police or otherwise to an outrage at Muckenagh on the 27th or 28th ultimo, when a cow was mutilated belonging to one Matt Farrell; whether any motive is assigned by the police for this crime; and whether the perpetrator has been brought to justice.

MR. BIRRELL: The police have reported that on 26th May a portion of the tail of a cow, the property of Matthew Farrell, was maliciously cut off. The motive for the offence could only be a matter of conjecture. The police have not succeeded in discovering the offender.

Irish Postmen and Politics.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Edward Leonard, of Trillick, who is an established postman, took part in a Hibernian demonstation held in Trillick on the 30th ultimo, as a member of the Trillick Hibernian band; and, seeing that Leonard had to resign the service on a former occasion for taking part in a hostile demonstration on the occasion of the present King's, then Prince of Wales, visit to Omagh some years ago, will he say what action he proposes to take?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I find that Edward Leonard, an established postman at Trillick, is a member of the Hibernian band at that place and took part in the proceedings on the 30th ultimo. He was not in uniform; and there is no cause for my interference. There is no record of the facts alleged in the latter part of the Question; and they are denied by Leonard. He was at the time, in 1885, a boy under fifteen years of age and was not, I believe, in the Post Office service.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiii., 712.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: May I ask whether others in the postal service will be permitted to take part in the celebrations of 12th July, if they are not in uniform?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: If they adhere to the regulations laid down as to their conduct no notice will be taken.

The Government and the Lords.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the terms of the Resolution whereby he proposes to modify the relations now subsisting between the two Houses of Parliament will be placed upon the Notice Paper.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I hope in a day or two.

Welsh Disestablishment.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the assurances which he gave before the last general election that the question of the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church in Wales would be dealt with on the first available opportunity in the new Parliament, he can now give an assurance that a measure dealing with this question will be introduced early next session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid that I cannot hold out any expectation of this great subject being dealt with next session.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would undertake to make no further promise of legislation to take precedence of this question.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I had better not say.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in the event of its being not possible to introduce the Housing of the Working Classes Bill this session, he can give an assurance that the Government will introduce and proceed with the Bill at the earliest possible moment in next session.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper:—

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Prime Minister whether he proposes to introduce the Housing of the Working Classes Bill this session; and, if so, whether he can approximately name the date of introduction.

SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): To ask the Prime Minister whether he proposes to introduce a Housing Bill this session; and, if so, whether he can name the date it is to be introduced.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Perhaps I may answer the Questions of my right hon. friend the Member for the Ilkeston Division and my hon. friend the Member for the Chippenham Division at the same time. In my statement on public business last week I said that my hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board had a Bill in readiness which could be introduced if it were thought to be beneficial to the cause of housing reform that it should be introduced this session. My present impression is that it would be hardly worth while to devote any time to the mere introduction of this Bill unless there was a strong and general desire that that should be done.

MR. MACKARNESS asked for an Answer to his Question in reference to next session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Oh! "sufficient unto the session."

Scottish Bills.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he can hold out any hope of passing the Scottish Education Bill during the present session.

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg also to ask the Prime

Minister whether, in view of the pledge given by the Secretary for Scotland to the Committee on Law that the Government would proceed with the Education (Scotland) Bill this session, he can inform the House when the Bill is to have a Second Reading; and whether it will follow the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Committee.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid I cannot say anything definite on the subject of this Bill; we are anxious to go on with it, if possible.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Has the right hon. Gentleman realised the very serious position in which Scottish legislation has been placed by the action of the Scottish Grand Committee?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot control the action of the Scottish Grand Committee, but I am aware that their present action and the general position are not conducive to the rapid and successful passing of Scottish measures.

Mr. PIRIE: Are we to understand that the prospects of Scottish legislation this session are absolutely *nil?*

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, I do not think so.

Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the Prime Minister what course it is intended to adopt as regards the Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, which now stands next on the list of Bills submitted to Standing Committee B.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: This is a private Member's Bill, and I imagine that the usual course will be followed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said he understood that the Prime Minister had stated that the Resolution dealing with the House of Lords would be in the hands of Members of the House in two or three days. Would the right hon. Gentleman give a fortnight for the consideration of that Resolution? He understood, he supposed rightly, that the Resolution was intended to be the prelude to a great constitutional change, and a fortnight was not too long for its consideration. He also desired to know whether the right hon. Gentleman would have printed, for the convenience of Members, the Small Holdings Act of 1892. The Bill which they were to discuss to-morrow was based on the Act of 1892 by reference; and it would greatly facilitate the discussion of the measure if they had the older Bill in their hands in a convenient form.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he thought there would be no difficulty in reprinting the Act of 1892. It was obviously for the convenience of the House. It would be reprinted in time for the Committee Stage. He thought he had stated that the Resolution relating to the House of Lords would be in the hands of Members in one or two days. At all events it would be in their hands very shortly. He thought a fortnight was rather too long a time for its consideration. The volume might be great, but the preface to the volume was not likely to be of great extent, and he should have thought that a week or ten days would be quite sufficient.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Is it not understood that in this particular case the whole volume is to be compressed in the preface?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The preface will deal only with the question whether the volume shall be printed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Will the right hon. Gentleman, for the convenience of Members, have reprinted the Small Holdings Act, 1892, which is constantly referred to in the Bill of the First Commissioner of Works, as it would greatly facilitate the comprehension of that measure?

Sir WALTER FOSTER: And also the various Allotment Acts which are likewise dealt with by reference?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, my right hon. friend will look into the matter and include all Acts to which reference is made.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.)

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Married Women's Property Bill): Mr. Micklem, Sir Henry Kimber, Mr. Radford, Mr. Berridge, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Astbury, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Bertram, Mr. Napier, Sir Edward Boyle, Mr. Haddock, Mr. Morton, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Silcock, and Mr. Hazleton.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Incest Bill): Colonel Lockwood, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Crossley, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Mr. Goddard Clarke, Mr. Maclean, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. George Hardy, Mr. Weir, Mr. Hedges, Earl of Ronaldshay, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Houston, Mr. Robert Pearce, and Mr. Russell Rea.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment Bill): Sir Howard Vincent, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Warner, Sir Philip Muntz, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Crosfield, Mr. Alan Gardner, Major Dunne, Mr. Freeman-Thomas, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Luttrell, Mr. George Greenwood, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. Leverton Harris.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Burns, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Massie, and Sir Thomas Whittaker; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Secretary Gladstone, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Silcock.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee B the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Sir William Anson, Mr. Rawlinson, Sir Edward Carson, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Lyttelton, Mr. Adkins, Mr. George Greenwood, Mr. Stanger, Mr. Buckmaster, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Bottomley, Mr. Mallet, Mr. Osmond Williams, Sir Thomas Roe, and Mr. Lloyd Morgan.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee C the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Imported Watch cases Bill): Colonel M'Calmont, Sir Samuel Scott, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, Mr. William Nicholson, Mr. B. S. Straus, Mr. Montagu, Mr Wynford Philipps, Mr. Myer, Mr. George H. Faber, Mr. Seddon, Mr. William Johnson, Mr. Waterlow, Mr. Haworth, and Mr. Cairns.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the Business of Supply, if under discussion when the Business is postponed, be resumed and proceeded with, though opposed, after the interruption of Business, notwithstanding anything in Standing Order No. 15."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 227.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles

Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holt, Richard Durning
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirrall)
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bg'hs
Markarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R).
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G A (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hervey, F W F. (Bury S. Edm'nds
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Moore, William
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Radles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Rothschild, Hon Lionel Walter
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

SUPPLY [12TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES 1907-8.

1. £1,996,400, Victualling and Clothing for the Navy.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee) said he had promised to make a statement in regard to this matter. Vote 2 was pretty well, in all its details, in the same condition as it had been for many years past. There was practically no alteration in the organisation of the Vote. There was, however, one essential point of difference. It was with reference to the kit of the seamen and stokers. These men received on entry a gratuity of £10 to cover the cost of purchasing their first outfit, and the money was taken back from the men when the kit was purchased. It was now proposed that the money should no longer be paid to the men, but the clothes would be provided for them. He proposed to refer to various developments that had taken place in the course of the year. A good deal had been done as the result of the operations of the Committee appointed under the last Administration to consider questions of cooking. The cookery staff would be increased in some twenty ships, the object being to have the meals of the seamen cooked by trained cooks; and with the same idea naval schools of cookery at the home ports had been considerably improved. Provision had been made for the supply of fresh milk instead of condensed milk for men in the shore establishments and depot-ships, and fresh pork would be provided at various stations where ships called. Then the Committee on Seamen's Uniforms had made several recommendations on clothing which had been adopted. The value of the kit had been reduced by the elimination of articles deemed to be unnecessary. The initial cost of the kit had been reduced from £9 5s. to £6 15s., thereby yielding a saving to the State on the one hand of about £11,000 a year, and to the men, on the other, of considerably more. Oilskin suits would now be provided by the State instead of by the men, and sea-boots for use in the stokehold. The supply of ready-made uniforms would, as far as possible, be increased, and attention would be given to the training of men in the art of tailoring, so that they might be of service on board ship in that capacity. The stock of mess utensils, which often had to be supplemented out of canteen sources, would, to a large extent, be supplied by the Navy—that was to say, the Government. The supply of newspapers confined to ships on foreign service and the Channel Fleet, would now be extended to all. As to tobacco, it was said that the strong unmanufactured tobacco was too strong for many of the younger men, and therefore a new kind of tobacco of a milder type had been introduced. He had tried it himself and thought it very good. The Canteen Committee, presided over by Admiral Login, had made a great many important recommendations. He saw no reason why this report should not be published, though it could not be published immediately, as it had to be referred to another Department. He would try to summarize the more important recommendations. Most Members, he supposed, knew roughly what was the present system of naval rations. The naval ration, consisting of bread, meat, and so forth, was a list of items of provisions amounting in cost to the State of 10d. per man per day. The men, however, were not obliged to take all the items in the ration; they might drop some of them if they liked, and in lieu get part of the value in money, which was called "savings." With this they might purchase for themselves, wherever they could get them, the articles which they preferred. That was the existing system of naval ration, mitigated by savings, which had been for many years a subject of complaint.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) asked whether the men got anything in lieu of the corned beef if they rejected that item.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he was not aware that they did not. He would inquire. The men need not take up all the articles unless they liked. The naval ration was objected to by the men on account of its monotony; it might be very good at one season of the year and not at another. He was told, too, that the savings system had great disadvantages. The Canteen Committee recommended the abolition of this system and the institution of another. There would in future be a standard ration at a cost to the Government of 6d. instead of 10d., and the balance, 4d., would be given as a messing allowance to the men. This standard ration would have to be taken up by the men, and the 4d. per day would be a money allowance. It followed from this that the Government provisions on board ship were to be available for purchase by the men, and could be bought by them with their messing allowance. Many of the men were willing to take Government provisions. As a part of the same scheme more convenient times of issue would be arranged for, a number of men having complained that they could not get their provisions when they wanted them. Improvements were also suggested in specific rations, and there were a number of miscellaneous recommendations, the most important of which was that in the case of destroyers and ships of that size, which did not carry canteens, some extra care should be taken on the part of the Navy to provide a greater variety of provisions for the men. The canteen had become an essential part of the economical organisation of a man-of-war. The canteen was, in fact, a shop on board ship, and the contractor, once he was in possession, had a monopoly. That position must be faced whether they liked it or not. Of course, the main *raison d'etre*, as he understood, was to enable the men to get a greater choice of food without their being tied down rigidly to the Government rations. He did not want to use exaggerated language about the matter, and he purposed to say as few words as he could, and would refer to the Report of the Canteen Committee. In the opinion of the Committee the Admiralty had too long held aloof from the canteens; they had ignored them too much, and they had too long avoided responsibility for them. He was bound to say that that had been due to a feeling of respect for the freedom of the men, and with a desire to give them a free hand in the matter. The principal recommendation made by the Committee was that the Admiralty should no longer shirk its responsibility; that it should supervise far more than it had done hitherto the canteen system. First of all, the Committee recommended that the Admiralty, among their other lists of contractors, should keep a list of men qualified or entitled to offer themselves as contractors or tenants of the canteens, and that that list should be available for the commanding officer when he was about to make a contract for the canteen. It was not proposed to interfere with the commanding officer's responsibility, and he would be nominally the party to the contract for the canteen on board. Then, in the second place, it was proposed that the Admiralty should keep a record of the history of the canteen contractors. The Admiralty would do that, of course, on reports from their various representatives, and they would keep also the price lists for the use of the commanding officers for the purpose of making their contracts. To do that it was essential that they should have regular reports from all the Fleet. A canteen might be a success on one ship and a failure on some other ship, and they proposed therefore to have reports at the Admiralty. Further, the Committee had drawn up a model agreement for letting the canteens, to be used by the commanding officers when they were making engagements.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Will the commanding officers not be allowed to go outside the list?

*Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he could not give a definite answer, but he thought that as a matter of fact commanding officers would not be likely to go outside the list. He supposed the prices would be discussed and then they would settle a contract. The Report of the Committee called attention to certain disagreeable features connected with the canteen system, and the means adopted by enterprising contractors to get contracts. They suggested that regulations should be made which would secure the purity of the lettings and keep down prices to a proper level by suppressing certain expenditure which was not in itself legitimate. Finally, the Committee recommended that the canteen should no longer be allowed to duplicate the Government stores, and the advantage of that proposal was that it would tend to save space and weight on board. That finished what he had to say about the recommendations in regard to the canteens. He would now proceed to one or two other recommendations. The Committee seemed to have some doubt altogether about the value of the ration system, and they suggested the adoption of the general messing system which, he believed, prevailed in the United States Navy, in which the messing for all ratings on board was under the control of the commissariat steward, just as a similar officer dealt with the mess on board an Atlantic liner. Under that system, the cost to the Government would be no greater than the present cost of tenpence a day, while it would lead to better food and a greater variety of it. But the men would no longer have an opportunity of choosing for themselves, though there might be a consultation from time to time as to their tastes. The commissariat steward who would do the catering would be assisted by an adequate staff, and he would provide for the whole ship at a cost which would be no greater to the Government than the present cost, and would lead to better results and better food for the men.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE: Will the steward be in the position of a contractor or will he be an administrative officer?

*Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he would be an administrative officer. It was proposed to try this messing system by way of experiment only, and it was thought that the experiment should be made on the "Dreadnought" as the most suitable ship. The Committee had also made certain suggestions as to temperance in the Navy. Hitherto what he had referred to in regard to the Report of the Committee took the form of positive recommendations, but in regard to temperance in the Navy the Committee merely made suggestions. What they said about temperance was put in a much more modest way. The present system was this. The Government ration costing tenpence a day included a modest little item for rum. One-eighth of a pint per diem was what was called the rum ration, which cost the State a little more than three-sixteenths of a penny per man. The man who did not choose to take up rum took up instead a money allowance. He got, not the value of the rum, but nine-sixteenths of a penny, so that he gained six-sixteenths of a penny, which was equivalent, he found, to ten shillings per annum per man. The essential part of the present system was that the men were entered on the ship's books with a mark to indicate whether they were temperance men or not. The man who did not take grog, but took the money instead, was labelled in the ship's ledger under the letter "T."—temperance. The number of men who were so labelled, who did not take the spirit at all but received the money instead, were, he was told, and he was rather surprised and gratified to hear it, 25 per cent. of the Navy. [Cheers.] His hon. friend cheered that statement, but there was ground for still further gratification in the fact that the number who did not take rum was rising 1 per cent. per annum. The Committee had made the suggestion that the custom of labelling the men should be altered, and that instead of labelling the temperance men "T." they should label the grog men "G."

MR. ARTHUR LEE : Is not this lettering already in use—"T." for torpedo, and "G." for gunnery ?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the letters he was referring to appeared only in the ship's ledger. Another suggestion of the Committee was that the inducement to take money instead of grog should be increased by raising the grog money from 9-16ths of a penny to a penny per day. That would mean a grant of 23s. per head per annum to those who did not take grog, and an additional expenditure of £15,000 more than the cost of the present allowance. If the whole of the Navy were to become T.'s, the cost, making allowance for officers, service boys, Coast Guard, and others not allowed grog, would be £88,000 a year if the Committee's suggestion was adopted. That was a fair summary of the Report, some of the recommendations of which would have to be considered by other Departments. The whole scheme would be submitted to a final judgment as soon as possible, and the Report would be in the hands of Members before very long. If the things with which he had dealt were small, they were all important in their way. They all affected the well-being of the men, and on that depended in the long run the strength of His Majesty's Fleet. Taken altogether, what the Admiralty had done and what the Committee recommended constituted a social reform of the Navy well worthy of the sympathy of the Committee.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) asked what they were to understand by this duplicate provision. What portion would be provided by the Admiralty and what portion by the contractor? Would the canteen system go on as before, or would the contractor have to pay from £200 to £300 for the privilege of having a monopoly? In the past these contractors had been allowed to buy the cheapest stuff and sell it to the men at the highest price. Was he right in supposing that the Navy contractors took annually about £3,000,000 from the men in the Navy? As the Admiralty sold tobacco upon which no duty was paid, why could they not buy these extra provisions themselves and supply them to the men at cost price? He saw no reason why they should not do so. By buying in large quantities they could buy very cheaply and they could supply the men with a good quality of goods at a cheaper rate than was at present charged by the contractor. If the men in the Navy found it necessary to buy food in this way, they ought to be supplied with good stuff at as low a price as possible. At present the system was exactly the reverse. Large sums were being spent upon the food supplies for the Navy and it was their duty to see that the men were well fed.

*MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said the statement which the right hon. Gentleman had made was of a comprehensive character. These matters of food and clothing in the Navy might seem rather small matters of detail to some hon. Members, but they were nevertheless of the greatest practical importance. If the men were fed and clothed in a way which they considered satisfactory and under a system which they considered fair it would do a great deal to make the Navy popular. In regard to the victualling proposals they were at a considerable disadvantage through not having before them the Report of the Committee which had been considering these questions. But as far as he could understand those proposals from what the right hon. Gentleman had said, they seemed to him to be conceived upon absolutely right and sound lines and likely to be of the greatest possible value to the service. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not be led by anyone to depart from the position he had taken up as to making the Report public. This was important in view of the very serious charges which had been made against a system which went right through the service from top to bottom. Charges of the gravest possible character had been made against the whole existing system, and if they had been substantiated it was important and in the interests of the service that that substantiation should be available to everybody concerned. He was extremely glad that the Committee had reported that the time had gone by when the Admiralty could absolve itself from responsibility in regard to the canteens, and that they ought to take over that responsibility. That was the only way in which the matter could be placed upon a satisfactory footing. He gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's statement that the contracts for the canteen would still continue to be made separately for each ship. He supposed there was no idea of a fleet contract or a single contract being entered into for a whole squadron. He hoped some good reasons would be forthcoming for that decision; for he had always thought that one of the great advantages of the Admiralty's taking over the responsibility for this auxiliary supplying of the canteens would be that, by making a large central contract, they would get articles at wholesale prices, and so be able to sell them more cheaply to the men. On the whole, however, he was bound to say that he thought both the Navy and the country would be obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for what he had done. The matter was of very great importance, and he thought it was quite clear that it was in a fair way of being put on straight lines. There might and probably would be details in which he could not agree; but so long as the main lines of the change were sound, the rest would be set right by experience. So far as he could judge, sound lines had been laid down by the right hon. Gentleman, with the help, he had no doubt, of Admiral Login, the value of whose services could not possibly be exaggerated. As to the clothing of the men, which the right hon. Gentleman had passed over in a sentence, he wished to say one or two words. A change had been made for the current year which was of the most far-reaching and fundamental character; and as to its wisdom and ultimate effects, he entertained very serious apprehension. The Committee was well aware that in the matter of uniform the Navy stood in an absolutely different—indeed, in an exactly opposite—position from every other uniformed service in the Empire, and, he believed, throughout the world. In every other service of the King of a uniformed character, the uniform was provided free of cost to the men, and maintained up to a certain specified standard at the cost of the taxpayers. In the case of the Royal Navy alone, the men were clothed and their clothing was maintained throughout free of cost to the Exchequer, and entirely at the cost of the men themselves. That was a fundamental and remarkable difference. The system was this. The Admiralty provided the materials for making the men's clothes. The cloth was bought at wholesale price, and sold to the men at cost price, plus 5 per cent. for various charges in connection with the establishment. The men bought the cloth with their own money, they made the uniforms themselves, and they made their own arrangements for making them. There was therefore a small profit—certainly no loss—to the State. The men gave the whole of their labour and tailoring for nothing. That system was obviously good from the point of view of the taxpayer. In the case of the Army there were enormous factories at Pimlico, involving large expenditure from year to year from the public purse, while in the case of the Navy there were no such charges at all. He had often wondered why it was that the blue-jacket, every half-hour of whose time was occupied by very hard work, should have for hundreds of years undertaken the cost and labour of making his own clothes, whereas the soldier, who had infinitely less to do, had his clothes made for him. He had wondered, in his simple-minded way, whether it would not be possible to use up some of the spare time of the soldiers of the Line in the making of their own clothes. The Estimate in the Vote this year for clothing and tobacco was £300,000, and the amount to be received was £310,000, so that the State was making a profit of £10,000. That was satisfactory from the point of view not only of the taxpayer, but of the service as a whole. Having bought and made their kits, the men had the pride of genuine ownership. No one would deny that the clothing of the blue-jackets was admirably made. The system seemed to him to present enormous advantages. It had only one defect, if it could be called a defect, namely, that it did not ensure absolute cast-iron uniformity. For some reason which he could not conceive, the Admiralty had issued a circular enacting that from the beginning of next year the issue of materials in the way he had described should cease. Whether the men in the Navy liked it or not, they were to be forced to buy, and what was worse, to wear, a ready-made uniform provided by the Admiralty. That was a serious change which would be very expensive in the end. The history of the uniform in the Navy was very interesting. The Committee might be surprised to hear that it was only in 1879 that the first order issued from the Admiralty fixing any uniform at all. Before then the uniform had depended considerably as to detail upon the idiosyncracies of the various commanders and officers of ships. A distinguished officer told him a few days ago that he was a midshipman in the 'sixties, and that on board his ship the midshipmen used habitually to go aloft in white top hats. In 1879 the Admiralty fixed what articles and how many of each a man was to have, and laid down definite instructions as to sizes, measurements and other details. There were Admiralty instructions as to the size of pockets, the position of buttons, and measurements, but they had not been acted upon. The thing was regarded as being rather foolish—the product of wooden-headed officialism. So long as a man was properly and, above all, smartly dressed the exact measurements were not insisted upon in the ships, but they were always rigidly insisted upon in barracks. In the depots there were police, one part of whose duty was to see that the exact directions of the Admiralty in regard to ridiculous details of stitching and lacing were carried out to the letter. They had been extremely rigid and all kinds of difficulties had arisen in consequence. Men of the highest character had come back from their ships with kits on which they had spent much time and money, and of which they were naturally proud. They had been forced to lay their kits before the authorities, and the clothes had been ripped up and destroyed, because they were not made according to instructions. He submitted that all that was folly and a mistake, and he was astonished that the Admiralty should have sanctioned it so long. It now appeared that it was to be not only sanctioned but forcibly extended to the whole service. What had happened was that the Admiralty had given a sudden order on 1st February, 1907, that the supply of the material for the uniforms was to be stopped, and that the men of the Service were to be supplied with ready-made slop uniforms. The result would be that the pride which the blue-jackets now took in their clothes would be diminished, that there would be a demand for a "fore-and-aft rig" as it was called for service on board ship instead of the present beautiful dress; and also a demand for the right to wear plain clothes ashore. He met accidentally two men from a ship in the Channel Fleet the other day, dressed in their smartest and most handsome uniforms, beautifully made; and he talked with them about various things, among others of this proposal, and they said to him that if they were to be put into the "purser's rig" they would never come ashore in it as long as they could buy a yard or two of serge to make a suit for themselves. He condemned the stupid wooden Prussian demand for absolute uniformity in every petty detail. If the Service were left alone the sailors would still have a very handsome dress at no charge to anybody. On the other hand, if this ridiculous change were insisted upon, the Admiralty would be doing what was extremely unpopular, and would inevitably give rise to a demand that the country should supply a uniform for the men at very considerable cost as was done in every other service. He earnestly hoped that this ill-advised change would be re-considered.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) said that the statement of the Secretary to the Admiralty was very interesting, and he congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on what he called the social reforms in the Navy. There were some Navy Votes which he would not venture to discuss because they required expert knowledge of Naval questions. But it was quite time that those who were interested in social reforms ashore should show some interest in the conditions of the sailors afloat. They all recognised the incalculable service which the sailors rendered to the country, and the very least they could do was to make their conditions of service as happy and comfortable as circumstances would permit. He, for one, would look with the greatest possible interest to the publication of the Report of the Committee mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman. The improvements the right hon. Gentleman had suggested all pointed to valuable alterations in the conditions of canteens. One of them was as to the conditions under which the tenders of the contractors for the canteens were accepted. He hoped that under no circumstances should it be imperative to take the tender of the highest bidder. The commander should reserve to himself the right to take a lower bid if he could get a better contractor. He expressed his peculiar satisfaction with the statement of the Committee in reference to temperance in the Navy. He thought the Committee could have hardly made a more valuable suggestion than the substitution of a distinguishing letter for the drinkers instead of for the temperance man. He had always opposed the idea that rum should be regarded as a necessary ingredient in the rations issued to the men on board ship; and he was glad that the men who, after declaration, said that they did not desire a rum ration would not in future be marked in the ships' books with the letter "T," but that the non-temperance men would be labelled with the letter "G" for grog. As a matter of fact the present money allowance was not sufficient to induce the men who did abstain in every case to refuse the rum ration. The grog cost the Admiralty three-sixteenths of a penny, and the saving allowed to the men who did not take the rum was nine-sixteenths of a penny, but in their eyes it ought to be more. He was glad that the Committee recommended that the money allowance in lieu of rum should be increased to a penny in order to encourage the growth of temperance in the Navy. The right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee that the allowance of nine-sixteenths of a penny was equal to 10s. a year per head and that that cost the Admiralty £7,000. He did not understand the right hon. Gentleman's arithmetic, when he said that if the allowance was increased to a penny it would represent an increase of expenditure of £15,000. He maintained that it would be only £8,000, and the total cost to the country would only be £15,000. When the happy time arrived when the rum ration was abolished altogether, the total cost would be only £60,000, and not £88,000 as the right hon. Gentleman had said. He could understand that there might be difficulty with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Treasury in getting this additional sum; but he could say that it would be an experiment extremely cheap at the price. The indirect effects of this issue of rum no one could calculate. He wondered how many accidents and cases of insubordination were due to it! He ventured to say that the indirect cost arising from these was not £60,000 nor £600,000, but incomparably more. When he brought this question up last year he was the recipient of a great many letters—some of them abusive because, as the writers said, he wished to deprive poor Jack of the only comfort he had on his perilous voyages round the world. But he had had a letter from a man who had served twenty years in the Navy and who had had considerable experience of the system of issuing grog as a ration. The letter was as follows—

"Sir, you are quite a dark horse in His Majesty's Navy, so have nothing to fear. I take it the reason you are interested in the rum question is from a knowledge you have of the evil effects it has upon the men generally—quite so. Now let me please write down just a few of them. First and greatest, the boys are taught by the men to drink, as the lads are often enticed by the cook of the mess to have a drink out of the basin at dinner-time for helping generally with the mess duties. The men barter with their grog, so are able to get two or more allowances. Many teetotalers take their grog up and give it to their messmates in return for work done in the mess. A ration or more of grog and a pipe of ship's tobacco (in tropical weather) make a man drowsy, disagreeable, and unfit for duty. Sentries have been known to break into the spirit room and drink rum till they have killed themselves. If you wish to get a domestic job done, you have to mortgage your grog, for money is of no value at sea.

"The warrant and the petty officers that handle and issue it are always able to have a good taste of it, in addition to their allowance. The plus or waste does not go down the scupper hole.

"It fills your cells on board ship.

"It fills the defaulters book.

"It keeps a large staff of ship's police.

"Most all minor punishments carry with it stoppage of grog, hence discontent. It court martials warrant officers, disrates petty officers; seamen and mariners, etc., lose good conduct medals and good conduct badges. It causes half the unnecessary clerical work in the Navy and creates thousands of stop-grog books.

"It is more dangerous than gunpowder, and requires greater supervision. It spells its own name (ruin). Therefore it should be wiped out of existence on board man-of-war, and the man who causes this revolution will be conferring a lasting benefit on our seamen and the nation, and whose reward should be a monument higher than Nelson's."

That was a letter from a man who had been twenty years in the Navy, and who added to that experience a power of keen observation. He did not think anyone would say that he exaggerated the dangers and expense caused by the rum ration, and he hoped the savings allowance would be increased. In the interest of the efficiency of the Navy it was desirable to put an end to the rum ration. The most efficient Navy in the world—well, he would not make comparisons—but the one which had most recently gained the admiration of the world, that of Japan, supplied no spirit ration to the men on their ships. The United States did away with it forty-five years ago in the course of the civil war, and he thought the universal testimony of the admirals and officials of that Navy was in favour of their system. Therefore, he thought our Navy would gain by the abolition of the ration, and it would be a wise step to give the new men who joined the Navy the increased money allowance without the option of rum. That would not interfere with the men who were accustomed to it. He re-echoed the words of the right hon. Gentleman that "on the well-being of the men depended the strength of His Majesty's Navy," and because he thought that this course would tend to the well-being of the Navy he ventured to urge it with all earnestness upon the Government.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said he wished to endorse every word that had fallen from the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite with regard to the undesirability, so far as he had been able to ascertain from inquiries among sailors with whom he had been brought into contact, of abolishing the present system under which the men made their own clothing. It appeared to him on all grounds that whatever an Englishman could do for himself he should be left to do, although that was a policy which Government offices tried to get away from. If once the Admiralty instead of the men made the clothes, there would be a tendency to approximate naval uniforms to military uniforms. The naval uniform now was the healthiest uniform because the men made it themselves and they would not wear what was not comfortable. The military uniform constricted the throat, interfered with the circulation of the blood, prevented the chest expanding, interfered with the heart's action, and prevented a man from doing any useful work for fear of splitting his coat. It was impossible for anyone acquainted with the uniforms of the two services to sit silent while a proposal was made that the sailors' dress should be turned into those foolish things that men in the Army were forced to wear. He wished for some explanation about subhead M. The item for clothes for seamen, boys of the Fleet and Coast Guard on shore showed a reduction of £44,127, which, coming from a total of £344,374 meant a reduction of nearly one-seventh. Of course the reduction might be highly desirable, but it had occurred to himself and a few others that an explanation of how the supplies for this year were being affected might be given. From what they had been told it could not be accounted for by any reduction of the *personnel* of men and boys in the Navy; therefore he was led to believe that it must be caused by a reduction in the number of the Coast Guard. That seemed more likely, as they heard that three coastguard stations had been abolished this year and it might be that these men's clothes were taken off the Vote. He would therefore ask his hon. friend for some explanation of the reduction.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton) said the reduction was due to a decrease in the requirements for reserves of clothing.

MAJOR SEELY said that if the hon. Gentleman looked at subhead M. he would find that the reduction was in regard to the issues made. He would therefore ask him to give an assurance that there should be no reduction in the clothing issued to the Coast Guard or in the reduction of the numbers of that force. Although that assurance had been previously given, it appeared to have been disregarded.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE desired to support the protest made by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division against any proposal to militarise the dress of the Navy. It was a small matter, but it might have very serious consequences, not only in the way of decreasing the agility and efficiency of members of the Navy, but also upon recruiting and on the popularity of the service. As to the question of the men making their own clothes, he did not pretend to be able to form an opinion as to whether the clothes provided by a paternal Government would be better in cut and quality than those made by the men, but there was one very important point involved, and that was the importance of encouraging men who would not spend the whole of their lives in His Majesty's service to learn some trade which would be of use to them in civil life. That observation applied not only to the Navy, but also to the Army. He wished to raise a small point under subhead M. with reference to the clothing of the Naval Volunteer Reserves. He had no practical experience of the question, as he had never gone into it very carefully, but there was considerable feeling, he understood, among the Naval Reserve Volunteers at the delay of the Admiralty in giving a decision as to a free kit after three years service. That had a detrimental effect upon recruiting and upon re-engagement of men in the force. It was a small question and the amount of money involved would be very small. The men got a free kit, and at the end of three years the man who devoted himself to his duties found that his clothes were worn out and he had to buy a new kit for himself. That did not seem just towards men of experience and service. What happened in many cases was that the man left the service and then re-entered the next day as a recruit and got a new kit. He believed the demands of the commanding officers of the Royal Naval Volunteers were very moderate. They only asked that 30 per cent. of new kits should be issued to them annually, and said that that would enable them to meet the case of those men who wished to re-engage. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to get a decision upon the point speedily. The question had been under consideration for some years, and while it was hanging on the men were dropping off, which was a thing the right hon. Gentleman did not wish to see any more than anybody else. So far as the main object of the right hon. Gentleman's statement was concerned, he would prefer to defer expressing approval or disapproval until he had seen the Report. That which the right hon. Gentleman had outlined seemed admirable in spirit, but he thought the Committee must be given time to read and digest the Report before they were asked to discuss it.

Mr. HUNT said the hon. Member for the Appleby Division, who thought a great many accidents in the Navy were due to rum, must have forgotten how very good the Admiralty rum was and how very little found its way to the men nowadays. What they received was not enough to get them "forrard" at all. So far as he could see, the men at the present time were well dressed; that was to say that they had clothes in which they could move about. What they complained of was that it cost a bluejacket £3 and the petty officers and others £5 a year for the upkeep of their uniform. That was a serious amount to ask these men to pay, especially as their wages were considerably less than those of the same class of men employed on shore in the dockyards. As he understood, a carpenter's crew on shipboard received from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 11d., whilst the same class of man on shore received 6s.; shipwrights and carpenters on shipboard received from 4s. to 4s. 9d. and on shore 6s. He also asked why all mechanics in the Navy save carpenters were supplied with tools. He thought it extremely hard that men serving on board ship whose lives were certainly far harder than those of the men who worked in the dockyards ashore should be paid considerably less.

Mr. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth) joined in the protest against militarising the dress of the Navy. One of the grievances the men had for many years put forward was that they had to maintain their kit: their contention being that they ought not to be expected to do so. The Civil Lord of the Admiralty had stated in reply to questions from him that if the

Admiralty supplied a free kit to the men it would cost the Government £350,000 a year. That sum was now practically taken out of the wages of the men, as they did not receive more than they did forty or fifty years ago. He thought the men ought to be helped in that direction, and he trusted that whatever course might be adopted by the Government something would be done in the direction of giving the men a free kit. With regard to the standard 6d. ration and the remaining 4d., he would like to know whether the men would be able to get forth at extra 4d. rations as good in quality and as much in quantity as they got for 4d. at the present time, because otherwise many men might prefer not to take a portion of their rations in cash. He heartily supported the hon. Member for the Appleby Division in reference to the steps being taken to promote sobriety among the men. He could give serious accounts of the evils that had arisen in the Navy from the use of rum. He asked whether the Secretary to the Admiralty could give any assurance with regard to the canteens in the Royal naval barracks in the three large naval ports. They had large canteens, and he wished they were smaller. In the town he represented a new system had been adopted in the barrack canteen of having a temperance restaurant, he believed with great success. Unfortunately, that had to be worked by private money, and he would like to see the Admiralty spend some money in that direction, as it would tend towards increased sobriety.

*MR, LAMBERT said, with regard to the remark by the hon. Member for Portsmouth with reference to the temperance canteen, that it would be a great satisfaction to the Admiralty to spend money in that direction if it could be done. He desired to dispel any idea there might be of any militarisation of the dress of the Navy. Any change of uniform would be useless and was utterly foreign to the ideas of the Admiralty. The fact was that the clothing was not made by the men themselves, because in the majority of cases the men had not the time to make it, even if they were skilled tailors. The clothing was made by one or two old hands who had sewing machines on board ship, and who had a monopoly and charged what they liked. The Committee on Clothing invited the men to express their views on the subject, and the men expressed their opinion that ready-made clothing would be of value to the men themselves, and would be warmly welcomed. The Admiralty had no idea of any stilted or wooden-headed system in dealing with the men. The explanation of the reduction under Subhead M, Clothing of the Fleet and Coastguard, was very simple. That reduction was due entirely to reduction in stocks. It was recommended by the Committee, which sat from May to October, 1905, that in future instead of a nine months' reserve of clothing, a six months' stock should be kept. That was the whole meaning of the reduced Estimate under this subhead for the current year. The hon. Member for Ludlow had asked whether the articles to be supplied in the new canteens were to be supplied to the men duty free. All the dutiable articles were now supplied duty free, in fact, the 10d. ration was valued outside the Navy at 1s. 3d.

MR. HUNT said the Question he put was whether the extra food supplied would be duty free.

*MR. LAMBERT said that was a matter which they would consider when the Report was published. It would not be fair for anyone who was cognisant with the recommendations of the Report to discuss it before it was before the House. The whole of its recommendations would be fully considered by the Admiralty which would do its best to remedy the grievances which were brought out last year. The result of the adoption of the recommendations of this Committee would be in the direction of removing the grievances which existed. All the Admiralty desired to do was to add to the comfort of the men and prevent them from paying an undue amount for any articles they bought on board ship. The cost of free kits would be about £325,000. The cost for each man, if he got free what he now paid for, would be about £3 5s. There were a trifle under 100,000 men, and therefore the cost would be about £325,000 a year. He was afraid that he could not hold out any hope that the free kit would be granted. In some quarters they were asked to reduce the Naval Estimates, while at the same time they were asked to increase the expenditure on various items.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE: There has never been such a request from this quarter of the House.

*Mr. LAMBERT said a good many Members had asked that they should reduce the cost of the Navy, but he, at any rate, absolved the hon. Gentleman from any desire for reduction. Personally, he was one of those who believed in economy while giving the country value for their money. It would not be in order to discuss that question, but obviously if the hon. Gentleman was not satisfied with the present standard of naval expenditure he was very difficult indeed to satisfy.

Mr. BRAMSDON said he would like a specific answer to the question whether for the extra 4d. they would get the same quality and quantity of rations as they got now.

*Mr. LAMBERT said, as the right hon. Gentleman had stated in his opening remarks, they would be able to get a better standard of value.

Mr. BRAMSDON: At the same price?

*Mr. LAMBERT said they would get a better standard of value. He ought to say that those recommendations had not been adopted yet, but it was believed that they would produce the result that the men would get a better ration at a possibly cheaper price, because the canteen contractors would be looked after much more carefully. The rates which by competition they were now asked to pay would be very considerably reduced, and fair value would be given for the canteens.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE: What about the Naval Volunteers?

*Mr. LAMBERT: The Secretary to the Admiralty will answer that.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the present Board had not been able to arrive at a definite decision, and he did not think that he could make any promise on the subject. He could not go beyond what he had said in answer to a Question that afternoon. He did not think they could very well differentiate between the Army and the Navy; the Army was in course of reconstruction at the present moment, and the Volunteers formed part of the reconstruction. He had by no means abandoned hope of dealing with the matter; he thought he could give the hon. Gentleman that assurance.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) asked whether the Estimate for the clothing of the Coast Guard was to be reduced. Was the amount to be reduced owing to the reduction of the number of the Coast Guard?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No there is no connection between the reduction and the clothing of the Coast Guard

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said surely the amount of clothing required would be less if they were going to have fewer men

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: We are not discharging them.

*The CHAIRMAN said the question of the number of the Coast Guard, which apparently was the real objective of the hon. Member, did not arise on this Vote

Mr. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) said he was rather surprised that the Admiralty had not made up their mind to supply the clothing of the men of the Royal Navy. He had always looked upon it as a great hardship that men receiving a small amount of wages—stokers able seamen and boys—should be called upon to buy their own kit. The hon Gentleman said that it would cost £325,000 a year. What of that? He looked upon the clothing as part of the pay that was due to the men, and he had expected more from a Liberal Government than they had heard. Certainly the Government ought to provide the men with clothing. Men who joined the Army were provided with clothing and free kit. Why should not th same system be extended to the Navy? The present system had no doubt been in existence many years, but they were now living in an age of progress, and he thought the Government ought to make up their mind, even at the cost of £350,000 a year, to supply free kits. The Navy cost about £30,000,000 a year, and, compared with that total, £350,000 was a small sum. He considered that the men were entitled to have their clothing provided, and as one connected with the sea he entered his protest against the attitude of the Government. He had thought that the Government were going to effect a reform in that direction, and, therefore, he had not said much on the Estimates. He thought he was right in saying that the majority of the men did not make their own clothes; generally the work was done by handy tailors on board. It was right and proper that the Government should supply the clothing, and next year, if he had an opportunity, he would certainly have something to say upon the matter. While he was not prepared to move a reduction of the Vote now, he expressed his surprise and entered his protest that the Government had not done something in the direction of supplying the men with their clothing.

MR. ERNEST LAMB (Rochester) asked whether they were to understand that the representatives of the men favoured an alteration for the supply of ready-made clothing, instead of getting the material.

*MR. LAMBERT: So the Committee is informed.

Vote agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

2. £4,060,000, Supplies and Clothing.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked what had been done with regard to the ventilation of the Army Clothing Factory.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.) said that the recommendations of certain scientific experts, who had been consulted, had modified to a certain degree the proposals of the Home Office. These recommendations had been carried out, and the result had been vastly to improve the condition of the atmosphere in the factory.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) asked whether periodical readings were taken of the state of the atmosphere.

*MR. BUCHANAN: Yes.

MR. SHACKLETON: Are they taken by officers from the War Office, or by officers from the Home Office?

*MR. BUCHANAN: They are regularly taken by a medical officer.

Vote agreed to.

3. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,671,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Armaments and Engineer Stores, including Technical Committees, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

*MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) said that not alone the Army but much more the Navy was concerned with the question he intended to raise, but they had the advantage of being answered in connection with the Army by a Cabinet Minister who was a great authority on explosives, having served for years on the Explosives Committee. It was important to bear in mind in discussing this Vote in reference to explosions of cordite in the Navy that the same cordite was used in the Army. He proposed to instance a few cases of spontaneous combustion which affected the cordite used by the Army. The question was an extremely serious one, and it was far more serious than the cordite question raised in 1895, which resulted in turning out the Government of that date. There had been many explosions of late, and many disasters with smokeless powders in other navies; and therefore he thought the attitude they ought to adopt was that suggested by Bismarck, who took as his maxim in such matters that for the defence of any country it was the duty of the Government to provide the Army and Navy with the best weapons of offence and defence that money could procure. The Government would be judged by the way they grappled with this question and by the way they showed their determination to provide the Navy and the Army with the most efficient cordite without regard to the expense, so long as the safety of the lives of the men was endangered. Of course the Government could not be held responsible for the spontaneous explosions that had taken place either afloat or on shore. They could not be responsible for the cases of spontaneous explosion which occurred on the "Fox," at Woolwich, and in the two land magazines in India during the last ten months. They could not be liable for explosions which had occurred owing to the absence of refrigerating machinery up to the time they took office. It was well known that cordite was a thing which was bound to deteriorate with storage or if the temperature got above 70° F. Consequently there was a great necessity for the immediate introduction of refrigerating machinery. The Government could not be held responsible for the fact that a quantity of an adulterated explosive or doctored cordite had been seized at Messrs. Kynoch's, because they could not have anticipated that any firm in this country would have attempted to introduce into an explosive an ingredient which would have the effect of masking the heat test which was the only test that stood between safety and the destruction of our men on shore. It was universally admitted that chloride of mercury masked the heat test; in fact this had already been conceded by the Government. In reply to a question whether the Explosives Act had been contravened by Kynoch, Ltd., adding mercuric chloride which enabled the explosive to defeat the official test, so that it might be in a state of decomposition and yet be passed as satisfactory, the representative of the Government said—

> "The addition of even a very minute quantity of mercuric chloride to an explosive of this class does defeat the official test in the manner stated."

That was to say, the cordite might be in a state of decomposition, and yet it would pass the test as satisfactory. The Secretary of State for War had also acknowledged that there was nothing in the researches of the Explosives Committee, in evidence over a period of seven years' investigation, and nothing in the report of that Committee which in any way justified a firm in adding mercuric chloride to cordite. That the Government considered the situation a very serious one had been shown by their vigilance in seizing all the explosives containing chloride of mercury. He understood that about sixty-five tons of adulterated cordite were lying at Woolwich and more elsewhere which had been seized. He wished to remind the Committee that what had been seized were new explosives which had not undergone any deterioration through high temperature and long storage. They were therefore far safer than those which the guilty firms had already passed into our ships say three or four years ago. The Government had stated their view in regard to this matter through the Home Secretary, who had said—

> "I have arranged with my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War for the submission to a conference of experts of the question whether it is possible consistently with the public safety to deal with the seized explosives in any other manner than by destruction."

That was to say they were considering the advisability of dealing in this way with new explosives which had not undergone any deterioration through storage or through high temperatures; and they thought the position was so serious that it was necessary to appoint a Committee of experts to consider whether they should destroy this adulterated cordite or deal with it in some other way, and all this time there remained both afloat and ashore cordite which had been doctored by mercuric chloride, which defeated all tests to which it had been subjected, lying in storage perhaps for five, six or seven years. So long as it remained there he would press to know whether the Government proposed to withdraw it. He understood that mercuric chloride had been added by Messrs. Kynoch and the National Explosives Company and one other firm. He omitted to mention the third firm as it was some years ago with German mitro-cotton of which the firm were unaware that it had been treated with mercuric chloride. Had instructions been given to put this untested cordite containing mercuric chloride in safe places where it would not be a danger to the lives of soldiers and sailors? They all knew that cordite and smokeless powders became dangerous after lying in storage and in hot temperatures. There had been an explosion on the "Revenge" arising from cordite which was only five years old, and which had been on board only four years. In the case of the "Fox" explosion the cordite was eight years old, and had only been on board for two years. That showed that even with good explosives there was great danger which could only be guarded against by frequent testt. Suppose mercuric chloride had been added, then the heat test would have been rendered useless, and if that explosive were put in very hot magazines it might deteriorate so rapidly as to cause explosions such as those which occurred on board the French battleship. That showed the seriousness of the situation. There had been two explosions in land magazines in India, and to show the necessity of the Government's being perfectly candid in this matter he would recall to the mind of the Secretary of State for War a question which he addressed to him in this House not long ago. The hon. Member for Norwood asked whether there had been any spontaneous explosions in land magazines during the year 1906, and the answer given to that question was a little misleading. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "There had been no explosions in land magazines under the control of the War Office."

Now as the magazines in India were land magazines though not under the control of the War Office, he contended that that answer was somewhat misleading. At any rate it was the War Office that conducted the inquiry into the causes of the explosions in land magazines in India. Subsequently he asked a question whether it was not true that there had been two explosions in land magazines in India, and the answer returned was in the affirmative. Hon. Members were aware of the circumstances under which an explosion occurred on board the "Revenge" and on board the "Fox," and the Government stated that they were not due to deterioration. With regard to the "Revenge," he traversed the Government's statement altogether, because that cordite had given a very bad heat test and the only safe course was to throw it overboard. With regard to the cordite on the "Fox" the Government said —

> "It is supposed that the cause was high temperature acting on a weak spot in the cartridge."

It seemed quite absurd to talk about weak spots in a cartridge, for that was something which would only excite the merriment of midshipmen afloat. It was quite certain that cordite did not explode unless it had deteriorated or decomposed and it was this decomposition that of course produced so-called weak spots. The reason why he asked who were the makers of the cordite which exploded in the land magazine in India and in the "Fox" was very obvious. It was necessary to show that even good cordite exploded if kept for a certain time, or subjected to high temperatures. There was no suggestion of mercuric chloride in connection with the "Fox" and the Indian explosions, for the cordite was manufactured at the Government establishment at Waltham Abbey, and why the Government should have refused to give the name of the maker passed his comprehension. The real truth of the matter was that there could be no reflection whatever on the makers when the cordite was from five to eight years old. The argument was clear. If that cordite had been subjected to the heat test a short time before, its dangerous state would have been detected and the ship never have been within an ace of destruction. On the other hand the Kynoch cordite with mercuric chloride would, even if deteriorated, appear perfectly good under the heat test. That was why he pressed the Government for a statement that they would bring about immediately the withdrawal of the doctored cordite afloat and ashore. The "Fox" explosion occurred on 31st October, 1906. The representatives of the War Office went out, and, he believed, they brought home samples of the cordite. The next explosion they heard of in this country was the disastrous one at Woolwich. It did a great deal of damage, and £25,000 had to be paid in compensation. He was prepared to state on high authority that the samples of cordite which were brought home from the "Fox" were stored in the magazine of the research laboratory at Woolwich, and that it was this cordite which exploded there on 11th February last. The explosions which he had instanced showed the extraordinary danger of trifling with this question of cordite ashore and afloat. The hon. Member for Norwood had asked whether a Report would be presented to the House concerning the explosion at Woolwich. It was most important that they should know all the facts about that explosion, and he desired to impress on the Secretary of State for War that they should be taken fully into the confidence of the Government, and that the Report of the committee of experts should be given to the House. He maintained that the reticence in the matter was in all probability due to the fact that it was known that the cordite which was in the research magazine was the same kind of cordite which had exploded spontaneously on board the "Fox." The explosion on board the "Fox" and the explosions in the land magazines in India were warnings which came to them when the Estimates were being framed in October. Then came the Woolwich explosion on 11th February before the Estimates were submitted to the House. With the warnings afforded by those explosions alone, apart from all others in foreign navies, the Government ought to have realised the absolute necessity of introducing very liberal Estimates when dealing with this question. Another warning which threw suspicion on the cordite manufactured by Messrs. Kynoch was the explosion which took place in a mine in Wales in February, 1906. The suspicion of the Home Office became a certainty then—and the War Office should have known of it—that the illegal treatment of explosives was being carried out by this firm which had obtained the bulk of the contracts of the War Office and the Admiralty, and which had been supplying both branches of the Service for many years past. That fact alone should have warned the Government of the necessity of having liberal Estimates in connection with cordite this year. When the suspicion had become an absolute certainty in connection with the cordite supplied by Messrs. Kynoch, he found that on 12th March Mr. Gold, manager of the high explosives department of that firm, stated that Messrs. Kynoch always added mercuric chloride to their explosives. It was true that in the following month the manager of the factory at Arklow stated that it was only added to their mining explosives, a statement which might be explained by the fact that the Arklow works gave up making cordite about seven years ago. All these things had happened long before the time when the Government appointed a Committee to inquire, and it was clearly the duty of the Government to bring in a Supplementary Estimate in order to provide cordite to replace the deteriorated cordite ashore, and also to replace the doctored stuff which had been bought from Messrs. Kynoch and the National Explosives Company, the other company which used mercuric chloride in its manufacture. It was three months since Messrs. Kynoch's manager admitted that mercuric chloride was used in the manufacture of cordite, and yet the Government had not produced a Supplementary Estimate or ordered the destruction or withdrawal of the dangerous stuff still in the magazines. From an examination of the combined Estimates of the Army and Navy, he found that on ammunition, explosives, and projectiles the reduction amounted to £651,000, or 31 per cent. on the total. The Committee would remember that this was a reduction on the reduced amount voted last year. He must protest against the economies which were preached in certain newspapers and the argument that because one Government had carried out a reduction another Government was justified in carrying it further. That was a doctrine which would justify the piling up of the load on the camel's back on the ground that if it could carry one load it could carry more. There was no justification for such a huge reduction. The argument which he had advanced might now be summarised. If cordite not treated with mercuric chloride spontaneously exploded, as in the cases he had given, there was far greater reason for taking special care with cordite which had been doctored and which they could not possibly test. It ought to be withdrawn at once. We had had lesson enough from foreign navies. In the case of the "Iéna" the French Government were given repeated warnings by experts; the Mexican battleship "Aquidaban" was lost through spontaneous combustion of cordite; there was evidence to show that the "Maine" explosion was due to the same cause of spontaneous combustion; and the explosion on the Japanese battleship "Mikasa" had been attributed by a commission of the Japanese Diet to cordite supplied by a British firm. He happened to know that the cordite which exploded on the "Mikasa" was cordite containing chloride of mercury and supplied by Kynoch's. Shortly before that explosion the heat test had been tried, and the cordite responded perfectly. That was inevitable, because the chloride of mercury effectually masked the heat test. That was an accident which might happen at any moment with the untested cordite now in our own magazines. The Japanese report was a great reflection on British cordite firms, and therefore it could not be too soon known that the Government repudiated the action of those firms which had been adding mercuric chloride and thereby endangering all our battleships, cruisers, and land magazines where that cordite was stored. There had only been fourteen years experience of smokeless powders. They were introduced into the Service for the first time in 1892. There had been a certain amount of research work on the part of the Explosives Committee, but there had not been the effectual test of long storage in hot magazines. On the other hand, there was only the negative experience of explosions which had occurred, and which showed that cordite could not stand long storage in heat. There was the utmost need for the greatest possible caution in dealing with smokeless powder. Another reason why the Government should act at once, viz., that they could not make up for a lack of cordite on the outbreak of war. A twelve-inch cordite cartridge, after it had been made, had to undergo a three months drying process; therefore it was perfectly evident that cordite could not be replaced quickly if the present supply was destroyed. With regard to the proportion of Kynoch cordite in the two services he could not reconcile the two answers given by the Government. The Admiralty stated that no figures were available to enable them to answer with anything approaching accuracy the Questions put in the House. The War Office, on the other hand, had declared that it would not be in the public interest to answer the Questions and to give the information. From those two answers it appeared that the War Office did know the amount, and therefore the Admiralty must know as well. He was not using exaggerated language when he declared that the present crisis was far more serious than the crisis of 1895, which concerned the Army only, whereas this crisis affected the Navy far more than the Army; and it was an occasion for a full and frank disclosure and for the fearless spending of almost any sum. A Supplementary Estimate ought to be introduced this year rather than next year, and it was absurd to suppose that the money could be provided by surpluses from other Votes which were acknowledged to have been cut down to the lowest limits consistent with safety. Therefore, he asked the Government to make a statement which would allay all anxiety on this question, and which would show that they were taking action to prevent all possibility of disaster by cordite both in land magazines and in those afloat. He begged to move the reduction of the vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,670,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Bellairs.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) thought his hon. friend the Member for Lynn Regis had been well justified in raising this vitally important question. No subject ought to produce more uneasiness in the mind of the House of Commons than one in which an idea was involved that there might be, not only in our land magazines but, what was much worse, in our ships at sea, large stores of dangerous material which would not only destroy the most valuable property of the nation, but, worse still, possibly destroy numerous human lives. Therefore, i was right that this question should be probed to the bottom, and it was the more necessary because irregularities had recently come to light which had caused doubts as to the quality of the cordite supplied by various firms. He was not there to speak for the Admiralty; he would let them speak for themselves; but for Army purposes he might say that this matter had received close attention for some time past, and they had ample stores of cordite to replace all about which suspicion had been entertained. The matter had been receiving attention for some time past, and the War Office stood to-day in a position which enabled them to know as nearly as was practicable what they were about. He said "as nearly as was practicable" because it was a very difficult subject. He understood from the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Lynn Regis, that the Government should destroy all cordite in the preparation of which mercuric chloride was used. He thought that there lay at the bottom of the hon. Gentleman's argument a fallacy. Mercuric chloride did not in any way affect cordite. It did not make it more dangerous. What it did do was to mask the use of the heat test. If that were so, it became necessary to subject all cordite in which the presence of mercuric chloride was discovered to close examination by means of other tests. The course the Government had taken was that they had stopped the use of all cordite in which there was any trace of mercuric chloride, and they were taking stringent steps as regarded cordite about which there was any suspicion, to subject it to a different heat test from that to which cordite was ordinarily subjected, one which mercuric chloride could not mask, and, above all, in cases where there was the least doubt, to apply a more vigilant test which mercuric chloride could not mask.

Mr. BELLAIRS asked where these tests were being carried out.

Mr. HALDANE said that they were being carried out wherever they had the cordite. They had taken care to earmark all cordite, and no cordite about which there was any suspicion would be made available for use until it had passed the test. Wherever cordite was under suspicion they had laid an embargo upon its use until tested. He was sure the House would desire the fullest information to be given. The House was entitled to be taken in to the confidence of the Government. The reticence about the Woolwich explosion had nothing whatever to do with mercuric chloride. The Government had there samples of certain explosives which it was thought might put us ahead of other nations, but these samples had now, unfortunately, disappeared into space. He could assure the Committee that the cordite which was at Woolwich was not cordite which came from Kynoch's, but cordite from Waltham Abbey, which had gone out to India and there become dubious; it was there for the very purpose of being subjected to investigation. The reason why he was reticent about the Woolwich magazine was that the Government did not wish to go into the details of what was stored there at the time of the explosion. He did not want to go into the consideration of questions of chemistry, but his hon. friend had referred to the action of this compound, which was one of the fastest of explosives, and also to the action of black powder. In black powder the particles of carbon, and the atoms of oxygen which were in combination with something else, lay side by side. These two substances side by side were very stable, and when the flash ignited the powder, the oxygen was freed, and had to travel a certain space, very small, and unite with the carbon, and they had a slow explosion and a great deal of smoke. Nitro-glycerine and gun-cotton, which were the ingredients of cordite, had wholly different properties. In gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine the atoms of oxygen and carbon lay together in one very complex molecule. The atoms of oxygen, when released, rushed very quickly to the carbon and produced a tremendous explosion. The result was that all these explosives were by nature dangerous. It was quite true that black powder, on the other hand, was a safe explosive, but the black powder was feeble and emitted smoke, and any nation which used it would be out of it with other nations. They had, therefore, to deal with chemical problems in order to do what they could to tame the dangerous explosives. The discovery of the means by which to tame these explosives was a very remarkable one. The nitro-glycerine and the gun-cotton had been found to be capable of being rolled together under heat, mixed together with a solvent, and so incorporated that they made a kind of paste which would roll into a gelatinised form and assume a character which made them safe to handle and, which was much more important, safe to burn and capable of burning slowly. The process of kneading them together and making them into a horny substance made them perfectly safe, unless they changed their character, and it gave them a quality which remained for some time unchanged. He did not know whether hon. Members realised how perfectly safe a thing cordite was when it was in proper condition. He used at one time to take a great interest in these subjects, and served on the Explosives Committee. He then had a walking-stick made of cordite with which he came many times to that House. It stood safely in the cloak-room for a long time; he observed a judicious reticence about it, and there was nothing in its appearance to cause apprehension. This method of taming cordite and making it a slow-burning but very powerful explosive was a great discovery of modern science. But, of course, this substance had to be closely watched lest it should get away from the tame condition to which it had been brought by incorporation and the action of the solvent, and go back to its original character. Consequently it had to be subjected to a very careful test to see that it was in a right condition. All powders of whatever description in which the carbon and oxygen were in the same molecule were prone to deteriorate, particularly under heat. To some extent also the nitrogen compounds might be given off, and might assume by contact with the atmosphere the shape of nitrous acid or nitric acid. In that way reactions might be caused in the powder, making these bad spots and developing heat which might cause local explosions that were communicated to the whole mass. The result was that they had to test in the very closest fashion to see whether the cordite was properly made, and not only so, but they had to test after certain intervals to see whether it had not deteriorated. He said, therefore, that the very best cordite made by the best process could not be trusted if exposed for a prolonged period to an unduly high temperature. That was why they were so careful about the magazines of ships, because in a hot climate like India there was danger, and also in an unduly cold climate, where the nitro-glycerine was frozen out. All cordite, therefore, was subjected to the Abel heat test, to set free and disintegrate the nitrogen compounds of which he had spoken. Very elaborate and delicate tests were made by means of fine tissue paper steeped in starch which was so exposed at a given temperature to the action of the fumes from the cordite that it would show certain lines, according as the fumes were given off abnormally quickly or normally, just as they should under the high temperature at which the test was conducted. Now, mercuric chloride had the property of preventing the giving off of the nitrous compounds, it interfered in a fashion which made it impossible for the test to act properly. The Abel heat test, which was the one they generally used, was the standard test for British cordite. The Abel heat test, which depended on the starch paper being affected by the emanations given off from the cordite under heat, was masked by the mercuric chloride, which prevented the emanations from being given off. Coming to the point which had been much discussed, could it be said that the mercuric chloride was useful in cordite, or served any other purpose than masking the heat test? He emphatically said no. He quite agreed that in the case of gun-cotton, on the contrary, mercuric chloride was used for a useful purpose. Gun-cotton, unlike gelatinised cordite, was not a hard, horny substance, but had an open texture. Like everything else easily accessible to the atmosphere, it was apt to be ravaged by bacilli, which formed a fungus that destroyed the gun-cotton. Mercuric chloride, which was a very fine antiseptic, destroyed the bacilli and prevented the fungoid growth. The nature of cordite, however, excluded these fungoid growths, and there was no excuse for using mercuric chloride as an antiseptic in cordite. In the case of cordite there was one purpose only for which, in the opinion of his advisers, mercuric chloride could be used, and that was masking the heat test. He hoped he had made it quite clear. There were other tests to which they subjected suspected cordite, and there was a way in which they could apply the Abel heat test even when mercuric chloride was present, for mercuric chloride only masked a certain degree of temperature, and they had only to raise that temperature and so modify the test and they presently found that they got outside the range of the masking operation of the mercuric chloride. Consequently they could at every turn, if only they had reason to suspect it, tell whether the cordite was bad, notwithstanding the presence of mercuric chloride. But it was very wrong to put the mercuric chloride in, because it was well-known that the Abel heat test was normally applied to cordite for our war purposes. They knew pretty well where the cordite was stored which was under suspicion, and they were subjecting everything that was in the least doubtful to the tests which could not be masked by mercuric chloride. It would be absurd to destroy all the cordite regardless of whether it was good or bad, for mercuric chloride did no damage to the cordite, it only masked the test. If there were the least risk to the ships or the men the Government would destroy the whole of the cordite, regardless of expense, but if by testing they could make sure that the cordite was good it was well to do so, always taking care to use the tests which eluded the mercuric chloride. The question had been submitted to perhaps the strongest scientific Committee that had ever sat, on which there were some of the first men of science in the country, under whose advice and guidance everything would be done. They thought that, in a matter of life and death like this, they ought to have the highest authority that could be obtained; they were deeply aware of the gravity of the situation, and were sparing no pains in their power.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) thought the Committee were fortunate in having this full explanation and also in the fact that no man in the House was so competent to give it as the right hon. Gentleman. The Committee generally were not so much interested in the details of the question in the form in which it had been raised. But it was of the greatest possible importance that the right hon. Gentleman should have been enabled to make the statement he had done. Many thousands of tons of this explosive were distributed throughout the Empire, and there was in regard to it great alarm, which it was imperative to allay in the interests of the services and of the nation. The right hon. Gentleman had made it perfectly clear that the War Office realised there was a danger; that they were aware of the means to be taken to guard against it; that they meant to take no risks; and that they were using effective tests to secure the safety of the lives of the soldiers and sailors and, equally, the safety of the Empire entrusted to their charge.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he was not quite so well satisfied with the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman as his right hon. friend appeared to be. He thought the Committee was indebted to the hon. Member for Kings Lynn for introducing the subject. The Committee did not sufficiently realise the frightful danger that existed in cordite which contained mercuric chloride being allowed to be stored in magazines or in ships. He did not propose to enter into the composition of cordite, which had been clearly explained by the right hon. Gentleman, but the point was quite simple. It was a very important matter in the preparation of cordite which was really safe, and the preparation of gun-cotton that the acids should be thoroughly and completely washed out, if the result was to be a stable compound which would not be liable to spontaneous combustion. Owing to imperfect manufacture, or to the cordite being stored under unsuitable conditions, they might have, without the slightest warning, an explosion of the most disastrous character. They had an appalling list of such accidents. There were the explosions on the American ship "Maine," on the Mexican ship "Aquidaban," on the Japanese ship "Mikasa," on the French ship "Iéna," on the "Fox," and the "Revenge," and in addition to those there were two explosions in land magazines in India and the explosion at Woolwich, which might or might not have been caused by the deterioration and spontaneous combustion of cordite. The Committee would realise that the danger was exceedingly great. No one had ever disputed the fact that the addition of mercuric chloride did not make cordite more likely to explode. But it did prevent their ascertaining whether the cordite was in a condition likely to cause an explosion. The only way in which that could be ascertained, until the novel tests of which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken, was by the Abel heat test, by which cordite was subjected to a certain amount of heat for a certain time, and if in the course of that period no change took place in the starch paper the cordite was in satisfactory condition; but if during that period a substantial change did take place in the starch paper, the cordite was unsatisfactory. But when mercuric chloride was introduced there was no change in the starch paper for a very long period. The right hon. Gentleman had said the Government protected itself by adopting other tests which would be equally as effective as the Abel test, and he had explained those tests. But they were of an exceedingly delicate character and took a considerable time to carry out.

MR. HALDANE said they could use the Abel heat test, and then by these tests carry the examination still further.

LORD R. CECIL said the right hon. Gentleman spoke from the information supplied by experts with whom he could not compete, but he would certainly suggest that there was considerable difficulty in effectively carrying out the test. If it was so simple a way of getting round the difficulty where mercuric chloride existed, he could not understand why those responsible had not taken that course. He observed that while the right hon. Gentleman said that he had tests quite as effective as the Abel heat test, he also said that he would reject cordite that contained mercuric chloride, and under those circumstances it did not seem to him that these recently-discovered tests were quite so effective as had been suggested. With regard to Messrs. Kynoch, he only desired to say one word. They knew that a considerable quantity of cordite now existing in the magazines of the Army and Navy had been supplied by that firm, and they knew that that cordite contained mercuric chloride. The three points that Messrs. Kynoch made in defence of this cordite in a letter to *The Times* were, first that mercuric chloride was valuable as an antiseptic; secondly, that it was used in Germany—although his information was that it was not used in the German War Office stores.

MR. HALDANE said it was used for gun cotton.

LORD R. CECIL: And thirdly, that mercuric chloride would very well pass the heat test. Of course it would. He appealed to the Government to say whether they were taking the best course in this matter. It was their responsibility, and if any accident occurred after this debate the responsibility would be very great indeed. He could not help thinking it would be far better to find out what cordite had been supplied by this firm and what contained mercuric chloride, and destroy it altogether. It might cost a few thousands of pounds, but it would be a perfectly safe course. The right hon. Gentleman had said they had put an embargo on the use of this cordite until it had been tested. It was not a question of use, but of storage. Were the Government quite certain that this cordite was stored in places where if it exploded it would do no harm? He doubted that even in the case of the Army, but was it so in the case of the Navy? That was a question they were entitled to ask, because although the Vote before the Committee was an Army Vote the question was too important to be restricted by any rules. Was the right hon. Gentleman prepared to say that the cordite supplied by Messrs. Kynoch was stored in such places that if it exploded it would do no harm? Was it stored in any of His Majesty's ships? Surely the Government were not going to allow the question of a few thousands of pounds to stand between the safety of perhaps more than one of His Majesty's ships and their duty! He could not believe that the Government would take such a dangerous course as had been indicated. The observation about the Navy was very much strengthened by what had been said. An hon. Member had asked the other day how much of Kynoch's cordite existed in the

Navy. The answer was that they did not know where it was, nor could they tell how much there was. Surely that was a condition of things which the House was not going to allow. The authorities at the Admiralty must instantly make every possible inquiry if there was any doubt as to whether the cordite was taken from Kynoch's or not, and they must submit it to a very searching and complete test, or destroy it.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Throw it overboard.

LORD R. CECIL agreed. Were they really going to allow the ships to go about at sea carrying these gigantic charges which would blow everybody to atoms if they exploded, without knowing whether the cordite came from Kynoch's or from elsewhere? He thought they were entitled to something more than they had received before they could rest satisfied in the matter. It was not a matter on which any Member of the House, however resolutely attached to economy, would resist for a moment, if the Government said they had been taken in by their contractor, and that further inquiry showed that they could no longer rely on the safety of this particular explosive. If they required a Supplementary Estimate to replace the cordite that had become dangerous, they would be suported by every Member of the House without a word of comment or criticism. He very earnestly hoped that the Government would not allow any question of finance or economy to stand between them and their supreme duty, which was to see to the safety of the services of the Army and Navy.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said his noble friend who had just sat down had made an appeal to the Government that they should ascertain what cordite there was in the land stores contaminated by mercuric chloride, and that where it was found it should be destroyed. He understood from the speech of his right hon. friend, that the first suggestion of the noble Lord was being carried out by the Department. With regard to the second point, that a destruction of the cordite should take place, being an economist and a Scotsman, he could not help thinking that some of the cordite might be perfectly good. If there were any risk in storing, more particularly as applied to ships in His Majesty's service, then let the cordite be thrown overboard by all means. There were two points on which he would venture to ask questions of his right hon. friend. First of all whether strict injunctions had been given that no further cordite impregnated with mercuric chloride should be received for the purposes of the Army?

MR. HALDANE: Yes.

MR. H. J. TENNANT said it was a great relief to the Committee to know that. The second question was as to the amount of cordite which the military forces of the Crown possessed. He understood from what his hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn had said, that a very considerable reduction had been made in the Vote.

MR. HALDANE said he had stated that he could only speak for the Army, and he should say that there was ample cordite to replace all that had been dealt with.

MR. J. WARD said he had been listening and trying to learn what were the conditions of the contract for the supply of cordite. He understood that it was usual in Government Departments to give specifications of the things required, and if they were supplied with something they did not intend to have, or they did not require, and that thing had to be destroyed, the cost and expense should fall upon those who supplied the thing that was not asked for. He would like to know what was the position in that respect.

MR. HALDANE said the different ingredients of the cordite were given in the specification, and whatever was specified was all that was allowed to be done. Therefore the introduction of mercuric chloride was excluded from the specification, and it was a violation of the conditions of the contract that mercuric chloride should be put in.

MR. J. WARD said the question was, supposing this material was to be destroyed, would the loss fall upon the contractors who supplied the thing that was not asked for?

MR. HALDANE: My friend need not be apprehensive.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said he had listened with great attention to the interesting speech of the right hon. Gentleman, but he regretted that he was not able to follow him in the scientific part of his observations. He gathered that the right hon. Gentleman was thoroughly conversant with the whole of the details and that he would do his best to see that no bad ammunition was received in future. It was unknown where this cordite was, and whether it could be traced or not he did not know. He could not see why it was impossible to trace it. He would point out to the hon. Gentleman, who seemed to think that all due care was being taken with regard to the storage of this bad ammunition, that no care had been taken with regard to the storage on ships. The Committee wanted to know what steps would be taken to see that this particular cordite was removed from the ships which were now at sea or in dock. It was absolutely necessary for the safety of the lives of the men and property that something should be done. He admitted at once that great anxiety had been shown by the right hon. Gentleman that something should be done with regard to the Army, but before the debate closed on such an important question they should have some definite assurance with regard to the matter. There were two representatives of the Admiralty present, and they ought to have some assurance that steps were being taken to ascertain whether or not this cordite was stored in ships, and that, if it was so stored, it would be removed. They did not wish to put any difficulties in the way of the right hon. Gentleman or to approach the question from a Party point of view, but really it was of such great importance that it ought to be attended to, and he had no doubt that it would be attended to as soon as possible. They must have some assurance, however, before the debate closed, that that something would be done.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that, as the hon. Gentleman had correctly stated, he was not really responsible in this matter. The question of cordite was an important one, and, although he might be out of order, he might be permitted to say a few words on the subject. He believed that reference had been made to explosions on board the "Fox" and the "Revenge." He had got an official account of both those occurrences which he would read.

"On 31st December, 1899, at 1 a.m., a 6-inch quick-firing cordite cartridge ignited spontaneously on board 'Revenge' in Mediterranean. The magazine was flooded, and the ignition did not extend, but it was subsequently found that the two other cartridges in the same box were burnt out. On 31st October, 1906, at 1 a.m., a 6-inch quick-firing cordite cartridge ignited spontaneously on board 'Fox' at Bombay. There were three other cartridges in the same box but only two of them ignited."

AN HON. MEMBER: Was that accounted for?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It was not accounted for.

"The magazine was flooded, and but little damage was done."

AN HON. MEMBER: Was any damage done in the case of the "Revenge"?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he was afraid that if he allowed this matter to be gone into it would raise a discussion on the Admiralty's action. [Cries of "No."] It must be understood that this was only to be an explanation by the Minister, and no discussion on it was to follow.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (continuing):

"In the case of 'Revenge' the cordite was about five years old, and that which ignited in 'Fox' was nearly nine years old. In both instances the cause of the ignition is attributed to a local impurity, causing a weak spot in the cordite, which deteriorated at that point more rapidly than the mass of the charge, and the process was probably hastened through the average magazine temperatures in both ships being unusually high. It has been recognised ever since the introduction of smokeless propellants that abnormally high temperatures of 100° Fah. and over exercised an injurious effect on cordite, but experiment has recently established the fact that all cordite, however well made, slowly but continuously deteriorates at a rate which varies with the temperature at which it is stored. It has therefore been decided to fit cooling apparatus to the magazines of all ships, commencing with those on hot stations, and those building, and the necessity for artificially cooling land magazines in hot climates has been recognised, and the best method of doing this is now under consideration. The tests to which cordite will be periodically subjected have also been made more stringent, and an additional test will shortly be introduced which it is hoped will enable the condition of a doubtful sample of cordite to be ascertained with much more accuracy than has, up to the present, been possible."

He did not think that he needed to say any more than that. The Admiralty had discovered that Messrs. Kynoch had of late years been adding a small proportion of mercuric chloride to the cordite made by them. The effect of this was to mask the ordinary test. He had been told by an expert that it was doubtful whether the small quantity of mercuric chloride used by Messrs. Kynoch had in itself any deleterious effect upon the cordite, but its addition was obviously most objectionable. The cordite which ignited in "Revenge" and "Fox" was not made by Messrs. Kynoch. He might mention that all the cordite received this year containing the ingredient in question had been rejected, not as being necessarily dangerous, but as being not in accordance with the terms of the contract. With regard to the cordite on board ship they had no reason to believe that it had been injuriously affected, but they had appointed a scientific Committee, with Lord Rayleigh as president, to advise the Admiralty. There was not the faintest reason for apprehension, and all precautions had been and were being taken.

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said that what the Committee wanted was a definite assurance from the Government that the cordite in use would, as far as science could make it, be absolutely free from suspicion of danger either as regards storage or change of climate, so that officers and men should know that they were not dealing with an article which was unsafe. With such an assurance they need not prolong a debate which was calculated to create a feeling of distrust in the minds of our soldiers and sailors.

Mr. HALDANE said he felt himself to be in a position safely and properly to give the assurance asked for. There was not the smallest occasion for a scare; not the slightest. All these explosives had a certain element of danger in them. The cordite which was really dangerous was the old-fashioned cordite that contained 56 per cent. of nitro-glycerine. They had now introduced a new form of this explosive called modified cordite, in which the percentage of nitro-glycerine was much less—he thought it was about 30 per cent. or even lower than that. The only cordite about which there had been any question was not the newly made cordite which was much safer. The addition of mercuric chloride did not make the thing dangerous, and the kind to which it had been applied was the safe kind of cordite. Therefore he could safely and properly give the assurance for which the right hon. Baronet had asked. He did not believe the explosives under the charge of the War Office were ever in so safe a condition or of such a quality of manufacture as they were to-day.

Mr. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness) said they had heard a good deal about the blue-water school and the two-Power standard, but it occurred to him that there was evidence in the seriousness of this question that they might be a two-Power standard to-day and a no-Power standard to-morrow. He would like to know whether any more cordite was going to be ordered from the particular firm who had been introducing mercuric chloride into their cordite. If ever there was anything dastardly in this world it was the action of a firm which had placed all our military establishments and ships of war in the greatest possible danger. If it was so necessary that in regard to cordite they should have an article above suspicion, why in the name of common-sense could not the nation manufacture its own? If there was such a real danger from tampering with this article surely it should be manufactured by the

State. No matter how serious the position caused by the adulteration of cordite might be it appeared that there were firms in this country who were prepared to take all risks and place the nation in very serious danger without the slightest consideration.

CAPTAIN HERVEY (Bury St. Edmunds) asked whether any portion of each consignment went through any special test before being issued either to the Army or the Navy. If cordite was supposed to be manufactured to a certain standard under a certain specification, and if each consignment had been properly examined, they would have known at once that bichloride of mercury had been used. He wished to know whether the proper tests were applied in the case of each consignment received, and whether it was found that bichloride of mercury had been used.

MR. MOND (Chester) said he understood that the use of bichloride of mercury was simply to mask the heat test. As that could be remedied by increasing the temperature, it seemed to him a very simple thing to do. He asked whether cordite with this mercuric chloride in it which had been tested had shown any inferiority as compared with ordinary cordite which had no chloride in it. If a superior test was used any defect in the cordite would show itself. With the more severe test, had this cordite shown itself to be deficient, or was it as safe as the ordinary cordite which had passed the ordinary test? If the latter was the case there would be no fear of its exploding spontaneously. He asked whether the sum involved in this matter was a large one, whether the tests showed that the cordite was inferior, whether any more orders would be given to the firm which had deceived the British Government, and whether they could not reject the whole of the stuff.

MR. HALDANE said he had not thought it necessary to inquire into what was the amount of money involved. It had been asked whether chloride of mercury made cordite any worse. No; cordite was not any worse for it; it was not in the least more liable to explode. The cordite was cordite made according to the best and most modern method, and was therefore the cordite least subject to any accident. At the same time, the Government thought it right to subject it to the very closest tests. Every consignment had been tested. Some of these consignments passed the test unduly. The Government found out afterwards that the heat test had been masked by the presence of mercuric chloride, and they had consequently subjected all these consignments to fresh tests. As to the question raised by the Member for Barrow and another hon. Member, he might say that no cordite was being obtained from the manufacturers who put mercuric chloride into it. What the course of the Government would be hereafter he did not wish to say at present. He was sorry to say that the manufacture of cordite by the Government afforded no absolute security. The explosions which recently took place in India were explosions, he believed, of the Government's own cordite. The Government establishment had a distinguished expert at its head. Two or three private firms that he knew had the highest skill at their command, too. He did not think there was very much difference between Government manufacture and private manufacture in the way of ensuring safety. In its earlier forms cordite was a dangerous substance, As now manufactured it was much safer. and the cordite which had been under discussion was of this kind. All cordite, however, required to be carefully watched, because under the influence of causes which could not be guarded against without special precautions—heat and age—it tended to deteriorate and become dangerous.

MR. BOWLES said the debate had left some serious doubts in his mind. The Committee would observe that both the Admiralty and the War Office refused specifically to withdraw or to destroy the cordite which they had no reason to know did not contain mercuric chloride. He wanted to contrast their action with that of the Home Office in regard to the same stuff made by the same people. The Committee would remember that when it was suggested that there was no danger in this stuff the Home Secretary stated in set terms that every bit of it had been removed from the ordinary storage, and that the Home Office had appointed a Committee to consider whether anything could be done except to destroy it at once. He thought that was a strong comment upon the implication which underlay the whole of the statements of the War Office and the Admiralty that there was no serious or imminent danger to be apprehended from this stuff. It was admitted that His Majesty's ships were going about the seas carrying this stuff which no human being could say was not in a dangerous condition, liable to spontaneous combustion at any moment. They were told that a scientific Committee would be appointed. That Committee might take any time for its deliberations, and they were to wait hoping that nothing would happen until the deliberations were completed. The House, the country, and the service were entitled to know what steps were being taken regarding the cordite on board His Majesty's ships at this moment. He wished to know what was being done as to Kynoch's cordite on board the ships. He agreed that it was extremely desirable that no alarmist opinions should get abroad, but the debate had gone far enough to make it absolutely necessary, if alarmist views were to be kept in check, that some plain statement should be made to the House why stuff which the Home Office considered eminently dangerous should be allowed to be carried about in ships and stored in magazines pending the inquiry.

*Mr. BELLAIRS said he was not altogether satisfied with the statement of the Secretary of State for War. The right hon. Gentleman had made a most interesting speech, but his assurances did not satisfy him on many points, even the most scientific points on which he spoke with authority. There were equally distinguished scientific people who disagreed with the right hon. Gentleman. At the Kynoch trial a great authority, Sir Frederick Nathan, stated that the mercury might be set free in time and cause spontaneous ignition. It appeared, therefore, that mercuric chloride, in the opinion of a scientific authority, not only masked the heat test, on which point opinion was unanimous, but was dangerous in the explosive itself, especially in the case of cordite which had undergone several years of storage. When his right hon. friend dealt with the question of tests he felt a little bit reassured, but the effect of what was said by the Secretary to the Admiralty was to do away with that feeling. He had refreshed his memory as to the evidence in regard to the trials, and he found that Captain Thomson, one of the highest authorities, said that he knew of no reliable test except the heat test introduced by Sir Frederick Abel. In regard to the use of silver foil as a test, Captain Thomson said there seemed to be some indication that it acted as a mask. In regard to gold foil he said that it vapourised and that a long series of experiments would be required to find whether silver foil or gold foil could be used. With regard to the suggested new test of raising the heat it had been tried and found wanting. The Secretary for War said they had got a reliable test which was being applied everywhere on the spot but the Secretary to the Admiralty said nothing about that test. The Secretary to the Admiralty said that they had appointed a Committee under Lord Rayleigh, and pending their report the untested cordite with mercuric chloride would remain on board the ships. The hon. Member for Barrow had urged that what had been stated in the debate was an argument for the Admiralty manufacturing the cordite. The answer to that was that Government cordite was just as liable to deterioration as that of private firms. Indeed, it was Waltham Abbey cordite that had exploded on the "Fox" and in the land magazines in India, and the argument he had endeavoured to enforce was that the danger could only be guarded against by ventilation, refrigerating machinery, and continuous tests, whereas the doctored cordite was most dangerous of all in that it had never been tested.

Mr. C. DUNCAN said that so far as the Government establishments were concerned they did not adulterate from purely vicious motives.

*Mr. BELLAIRS said they had no reason to suppose that private firms would ever again act as Kynoch Limited, had done. If reserves of cordite were accumulated they were liable to deteriorate, and, therefore, what the Government required was capacity for large output, so that if war broke out cordite could be manufactured as rapidly as possible. He had not received from his right hon. friend an assurance that a Supplementary Estimate would be introduced for the purpose of replacing suspicious as well as deteriorated cordite. He very much regretted that in the circumstances he must divide the Committee on this question.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) asked whether the same experts would in the future be asked to pass under review the whole of the cordite supplied to the three great Departments of State—the Home Office, the Navy, and the Army—especially the cordite for hot climates. Had the cordite abroad been tested and found deteriorated; and had a new supply been sent out to take its place? He thought that a stronger assurance might be given to the Committee as to the supply of pure and up-to-standard cordite which had been sent abroad; and whether the deteriorated cordite would be returned to the manufacturers. He also wanted to know the number of years it was since the cordite at present abroad or on board His Majesty's ships had been manufactured; and what steps had been taken to throw it overboard if it was found to be decomposed. He understood that the Secretary of State for War had stated that in one case the cordite was nine years old, and in another six years old; he hoped that steps would be taken to destroy all the old cordite. He also asked how it came about that in a matter where the safety of the Navy and the Army was concerned, the War Office and the Admiralty had to depend on the experts of the Home Office.

MR. HALDANE said that the War Office did not depend on the Home Office experts. The standard of the age of cordite varied, according to the diameter of the cartridge. All the cordite which was looked upon with suspicion had been dealt with, and all those things were looked at as closely as they could be by their own War Office experts.

*MR. BELLAIRS said that the Secretary for War had stated that cordite M.D. was less liable to deterioration. His impression was that there was no gain in this respect and that cordite M.D. was simply intended to prevent erosion of the guns. He had consulted experts on the matter, who assured him that the M.D. cordite was not one whit better than the old cordite in respect of safety, but that it did lessen the erosion.

MR. ERNEST LAMB asked whether, if it was a fact that Kynochs had supplied cordite treated with mercuric chloride, it was not possible to find out the ships to which that cordite had gone. The Government ought not to have anything more to do with Kynochs; they ought to be struck off the contractors list for having submitted the country to so great a danger.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 23; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 228.)

AYES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bertram, Julius
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry

Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gordon, J.
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Moore, William
Nield, Herbert

Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Bellairs and Lord Robert Cecil.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)

Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir

Baker,Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John

Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, W. (T'W'rHamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, Rt Hn. Sir J T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Clements (Denbigh)
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardy, George A (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Torance, Sir A. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put,

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL (BY ORDER).

Order read, for Second Reading.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) thought that before the Bill passed the Second Reading they were entitled to some explanation of the Bill and its provisions.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) said it was no part of the business of a Government Department to explain what the provisions of a private Bill were, although he would be glad to do so. If, therefore, he did not supply any information, his refusal was meant in no unfriendly sense.

***Mr. NIELD** (Middlesex, Ealing) said that as one of the Members whose names were on the back of the Bill he would be glad to explain what the meaning of it was; but at the same time he thought it was an extraordinary thing and not in accordance with the usages of the House for people to put down Amendments to the Bill and then not be present to support them, especially when their objections only referred to clauses about which negotiations were proceeding. There seemed to him to be a practice growing up to oppose the Second Reading of Bills where it was sought merely to get clauses and no question arose as to the principles of the measure, and this he ventured to think should be discouraged. This Bill was one of a series of Bills promoted by the same company for the purpose of supplying electricity in bulk in Middlesex, and a large portion of Hertfordshire and Essex. The object was to satisfy the democratic Eastern and North-Eastern districts of those counties by taking over their lighting and supplying the needs of the poorer areas, who were exercising a wise discretion in taking a bulk supply instead of embarking on an expensive generating plant. He was told that there was some objection on clauses, but that could be met in the course of a few hours discussion upstairs and most satisfactorily disposed of.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL (BY ORDER).

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University), in moving that the Bill be read a third time that day three months, said he did not do so out of any hostility to the Bill or its object. He thought, however, that it was desirable to call attention to the way the County Council exercised its powers of borrowing under the supervision of the House in order that there might be some check. Last year he called attention to the Bill in the same way as he was now doing, and it was one gratifying fact that the powers of borrowing to be exercised this year were smaller than they were last. One of the promoters of the Bill had offered to meet him upon one or two points to which he had called his attention, but he still objected, as he did last year, to the period of repayment of loans to local authorities being spread over sixty years. That was an excessive time, and to allow such a state of things was unsound finance. There was a sinking fund established in connection with these loans by the London County Council, but under this Bill they could use it for their own purposes. That again was very unsound finance, because the object of a sinking fund was to create a reserve for a particular purpose. He would like to hear something more about works, alluded to in the excellently drawn schedule, such as the Strand improvements and certain tramway improvements and sites for schools. One would be grateful to know how the steamboats were progressing this year. He hoped they showed a revenue. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

SIR EDWIN CORNWALL (Bethnal Green, N.E.) said the hon. Member was quite justified in raising the question, not only by the importance of London County Council finance, but because Parliament had laid down that the House had a right to do so. As the Local Government auditor stated in his Report, the revenue of the London County Council for the last year was £14,983,000, and the expenditure was estimated at £14,673,000. The reason why the Bill came before the House in this form was because in the old days the Board of Works always brought in a public Bill to deal with the borrowing powers of local authorities, and when the County Council was formed in 1889 that power was transferred to them. The Bill this year was on the same lines as previous years, but the amount was not so large as in last year's Bill. The total borrowing powers were for the Council £5,354,000 and for other local authorities £1,377,000 — in all £6,731,000. Complaints had been made that the County Council were not quite so accurate in their estimates in these matters as they might be. As a matter of fact the powers taken for the following six months were mere machinery and had to be put into the Bill. The powers taken last year would have enabled the County Council to have taken £5,000,000 of the £6,731,000 they now asked for. In fact it was seldom the full amount was reached, but as amounts could not be shifted from one item to another it was necessary to include the full amount. The Council was very careful not to go beyond the limit of sixty years, and many of the loans were for short periods. The Council had its relations with other local authorities under consideration. The schedule to the Bill gave very full explanation. As to the Strand improvements, the figures, when worked out, would show that the cost was £50,000 less than was estimated when the Council went into that large undertaking, and if the Council was not rushed into putting the land on the market it would yield as much, if not more, than the estimate. London owed a debt of gratitude to the Council valuer, Mr. A. Young, for his skilful handling of the huge business and that of the Westminster improvement. Tramway improvements he need not discuss. Educational sites in London were necessarily expensive, and to that no doubt was largely due the fact that the cost per head for the education of London children was greater than that of other places. What would be the result of the steamboat service remained to be seen. It was now only a summer service, and he wished the people of London would give it more support. Sadly he had watched the boats during the last few weeks; but the receipts were improving, and he was sure the steamers were much appreciated by visitors to London. He believed the tramway system would in course of time prove a gold mine for ratepayers, and be compensation for a loss on the steamboats, which loss he hoped would grow less.

MR. RAWLINSON, being satisfied with the explanation, asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY—ARMY ESTIMATES.

Postponed proceeding on original Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,671,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Armaments and Engineer Stores, including Technical Committees, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908," resumed.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) called attention to the fact that while an enormous establishment staff was maintained for ammunition, the charges being increased by £220, the wages for workmen had decreased by £232,000. Woolwich Arsenal was worse off by 2,500 men than before the South African War. He desired to know if the War Office had a sufficient stock of ammunition, and reminded the Committee that the late Prime Minister admitted in the House that the store was exhausted a few weeks after the war began. That was a very serious thing. They had already discharged 10,000 men, and now they were 2,388 below the 1896 level. 1,400 men had been discharged since the Secretary of State for War stated that the average was not to exceed 200. Having regard to the condition of the Arsenal and the number of men employed he wanted to know publicly and plainly whether the Secretary of State for War thought there was a sufficient stock to meet any emergency. He hoped that within a week or two they would get the Ordnance Estimate under discussion and be able to raise the whole subject. It was a considerable embarrassment to him to sit there for a long time trying to raise a question, which was practically out of order, as to the Arsenal and its work.

MR. HALDANE said they had an adequate supply of ammunition. The question had been carefully considered and worked out, and they knew exactly where they stood. Of course it was not possible to discuss the real question in which the hon. Member was interested; it would be wholly out of order for him to enter upon it. He would only say that the Government were deeply aware of the hardship which these reductions had caused, and they had done all they could to bring them within the smallest possible compass. Their difficulty was to maintain just such an establishment as would not only provide for their peace requirements, but also enable expansion to take place to meet the emergencies which arose in case of war. He trusted that when the establishment had reached that point—and they had nearly reached it now—they would be able to keep it at that minimum without further reductions, while making its maintenance a first charge.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,436,000, be granted to his Majesty, to defray the Charge for Barrack Construction, for purchases of Land, and for Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad (including Staff in connection therewith), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** asked whether it was proposed in the present year to direct any reconstruction of the depots as regarded the recruiting centres, which were the subject of severe comment in the Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting. He thought they ought to know whether the depots in the recruiting centres, or in connection with the Territorial Bill, though that probably would come later, were to be reconstructed, or in certain cases only. Some £50,000 was taken in this Vote for changes in works and fortifications at various stations at home and abroad. About £40,000 was taken for works at home, and about £10,000 for colonial stations. The changes were of course subject to secrecy. It was only in cases like the Forth, where, in passing over the bridge, they could see from time to time what guns were there, that they could lift the veil. In the early part of the session he alluded to the changes which had been made in the Forth, and every one who passed could see what changes were made from time to time in the armaments. It was notorious that in other cases the recent change was connected with the abolition of the mine fields. That was announced three years ago, and had been proceeded with. That was another matter about which he would like to ask a question. Mine fields were still manufactured at Woolwich for certain purposes abroad. The change which had been made had been carried out at home, but it had been refused by Australia and by India. The Government of India had decided to continue the use of mine fields, as also had the Government of Australia, although they were discontinued at home. They had been abolished, not only in naval ports, but also in commercial ports to which war ships did not resort. The use of submarines had not yet taken place in certain of our ports from which the mine fields had been removed. The Tyne was now defended only by batteries at the mouth. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman had looked into the matter, and whether he was satisfied with the defences of one or two places where it was admitted that raids might be possible. The Tyne was one of those places, and had been mentioned both by the Leader of the Opposition and his right hon. friend, who was a supporter of the blue-water policy; he thought they might fairly take the Tyne as a case in point. Since the change of policy 12-pounder guns had in many cases been replaced by 6-inch guns; but whether they were 6-inch guns or not, or whether they were only half the number of the twelve pounders or whether they were more numerous, nevertheless the chance of a ship running through under their fire was very great indeed. The policy which was being pursued here was different from the policy pursued in other countries. This matter had been under consideration both in Germany and in France, and just as Australia and India had taken the opposite decision to our own so Germany and France had continued in the opposite sense. He would only say that the change was one which was startling a good many people, and as far as commercial ports were concerned he thought that his right hon. friend would see that there was some ground for the anxiety which was felt at places like the Tyne, where there was no more defence at present than an armament which small vessels at night might easily pass. It had been said that the Admiralty had sold the minefields and the Brennan torpedoes as old iron and wire, that they had also sold the land from which the Brennans were worked. There was a very considerable sum of money in the Vote for the selling of land, and he hoped that that meant that the Secretary for War was selling his own land, which had no concern with the Navy Estimates. The story of the Brennan torpedo was not worth going into now, and he would only ask whether this article, which had cost the country an enormous sum of money, was in any degree to be continued, as he saw that there was still a sum of money taken for the Brennan plant. There was a sum of £500 apparently for storage. He would like to know what policy that sum of £500 represented.

Mr. HALDANE said the first Question of the right hon. Baronet was in regard to the depots. The condition of these depots required attention in many cases. The accommodation which was necessary varied from many more causes than one, and, in consequence, it was not easy to lay down a uniform standard for all. He had not lost sight of the fact that the depots would become of great importance to the Army organisation; but what they had to look to so far as building was concerned was the comparative urgency of certain works which came first in the list, and which were very urgent indeed, though the other works were not overlooked. The right hon. Gentleman had raised a very large question as to the defence of naval ports and also the defence of commercial stations. As to those the question of policy was of course largely a naval one, though it was true that the question of the War Office arose in connection with that policy. Many of the present defences were the result of the deliberations of General Owen's Committee, who had issued a most exhaustive Report. So far, in this matter, India had preserved her own line; she was reserving the system of mines to which the right hon Baronet had referred, and in so doing was in harmony with various other Powers. There was only one authority who had decided against the old mine policy and for the policy to which his right hon. friend had referred, but it was not necessary to go into that on this Estimate. The question of the Brennan torpedo was again a question of naval policy, and the naval policy of to-day condemned the use of those fixed torpedoes. The question of the naval defence of commercial bases like the Tyne was one on which they could only rely on the highest naval advice, and it was on the highest naval advice that they had relied in taking such steps as they had.

Sir CHARLES DILKE said that, so far as the Tyne was concerned, naval policy or no naval policy, the minefields had gone and nothing had taken their place. No one in Newcastle was satisfied with the present state of things, and he thought there was a responsibility in regard to this port resting upon his right hon. friend.

MR. HALDANE said he was quite satisfied that the question of the defence of commercial ports was a big one.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) asked for an explanation of the increase in the appropriation-in-aid in connection with the sale of land from £30,000 to £50,000. He desired to know whether General Owen's Committee was going to overhaul the defences of India in the way they had treated the defences of Hong-Kong, Malta, and elsewhere. It was common knowledge that the recommendations of the Committee, which had been carried out at Malta and Gibraltar, had produced something little short of consternation in the minds of those who were responsible for the defence of those places. Was this Committee going to be allowed to overhaul the Indian system of defence? He would much prefer to leave that question to the Commander-in-Chief and his staff on the spot in India. He was not quite satisfied with what the right hon. Gentleman had said as to the depots. These depots, and certain barracks now occupied by Regular troops, both in this country and in South Africa, were in a condition, sanitary and structurally, little short of shocking. There were several barracks in South Africa which were in a disgraceful condition, while the most notorious example in this country was Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh. Although it was almost impossible to tell precisely how the various sums of money in this Estimate were going to be allocated, it was obvious that the right hon. Gentleman had taken no particular steps to ensure that anything would be done during the present financial year to remedy the state of things existing at Piershill Barracks. The buildings were badly situated and badly drained. The Cavalry had been removed, and he understood that the Artillery was going to replace them. That would not make it any better from the point of view of the drains. It was necessary, to preserve the health of the troops in Scotland, that an entirely new building should be erected. He wished to call attention also to the proposal to erect mess quarters for Army Medical Corps officers on Eltham Common, Woolwich. The natural charm of the land was being ruined. The right hon. Gentleman was aware of his views on this point. It was a very small common, but it was being absolutely destroyed by the action of the War Office. The Secretary of State had been to Woolwich lately, and he had no doubt visited the common. Hundreds of trees had been cut down quite recently, but he would make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to spare the fine old oak trees. He contested the right of the War Office to attach this common at all. He could not account for the action of the War Office in removing enormous quantities of turf and loam from one part of the common to another. When the reason for this was asked, the right hon. Gentleman stated that it was to improve the surface of the land for military purposes. Then on 4th March they were told that it was to provide officers' quarters. He did not know to what military purposes the right hon. Gentleman referred. It was common land before the War Office had anything to do with Woolwich. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the common rights had lapsed; but common rights in law did not lapse, and could not lapse.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: That obviously does not fall within this Vote.

LORD BALCARRES said they were told on 4th March that the proposal was to erect buildings on part of the land. He submitted that the buildings could not be erected unless the Committee voted money under a subhead of this Vote.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: That may be quite true, but we can only deal with the buildings. The ownership of the land, or the rights over the land, is a different matter altogether.

LORD BALCARRES: I submit that this work is being done by the Works Department of the Royal Engineers, who are in this Vote.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: You can question the expense of the buildings, but you cannot raise any question in regard to the land.

LORD BALCARRES: I submit that the House of Commons is now being asked to vote money for the Royal Engineers, who are cutting down trees on land which does not belong to the War Office, and that the Government is proposing to erect at a cost of £12,500 buildings on that land. Under this Vote they are now actually spending the initial outlay on the surface of the ground.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: But the ground is not vested in the War Office. It is in another Government Department, and what we are dealing with here is the question of the buildings. It is not a question whether the War Office is entitled to the land.

SIR F. BANBURY said they were now asked to authorise the expenditure of money on buildings, but if they were erected on land which belonged to somebody else, the money might be lost altogether. Were the Committee not entitled to ask that the money should be expended on buildings erected on land belonging to the War Office?

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: We cannot go into the question of title. The Committee are not entitled under this Vote to discuss in detail whether there is a right of common or not.

LORD BALCARRES regretted that he could not pursue the subject, because an injustice was being done not only to the borough of Woolwich, but to the whole community of the East and South of London, who were interested in the preservation of every open space in their neighbourhood.

MR. HALDANE, replying to the reference made to the Owen Committee, said that the great questions of strategy and policy with which they had to deal were not matters which could be judged by those who were not in a position to form an authoritative opinion, and the Government stood by this body, whose practice was founded on the highest principles of naval strategy. The noble Lord smiled. His acquaintance with these things, perhaps, was so vast that he knew more than was known to the general staff or the Board of Admiralty. The Owen Committee remained entitled to their respect, and the Government intended to carry out their principles.

SIR F. BANBURY, referring to the defective state of the drains in the barracks at Edinburgh, said that now the Scots Greys had been removed, he understood that there would be no object in spending money on the barracks, unless they were to be utilised for the accommodation of other troops. If they were to be used for other troops, the drains ought to be put right. He found from the Estimates that the reconstruction of the drainage in the barracks at Kingston was estimated to cost £3,500. A footnote stated that the Estimate had been reduced from £4,300. As a rule, drainage works exceeded the amount at first estimated, and he would like to know what was the reason for a reduction in this case. He also asked for further information with respect to the item in the Vote for hospital accommoda at Portsmouth.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted; and, forty Members being found present—

SIR F. BANBURY, continuing his speech, said that on page 75 there was an item for cavalry schools. The Treasury had sanctioned an expenditure in 1906–7 of £8,000, but the expenditure up to 31st March this year only amounted to £2,000. It could not be good policy to spend only one-fourth of the amount authorised more than a year ago. Then there was the question raised by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean in regard to the sale of land. The amount this year was £45,000, whereas last year the sale of Colonial land alone was only £39. This was really a most important question, because one did not know what might happen if the land was sold in that kind of way. The land might be wanted in the future; and the country would have to pay a great deal more for it than they had formerly received for it. Then there was the item, on page 78, of fortifications on the island of Malta, which last year amounted to £5,440, and was this year reduced to £1,300. It did not seem to him to be wise to make such a very large reduction.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that the item for the sale of land might be connected with the sale of stations which had been used for Brennan torpedo work. The policy in regard to submarine mines had been abandoned under the auspices of two right hon. Gentlemen who had both to do with the Army and Navy. As late as December last there was a transfer of expenditure from one head to another, the War Office asking for it as urgent although it concerned submarine mining. That was a case of *virement*. The Committee ought to have some information as to what lands were sold.

*MR. BUCHANAN said that the War Office, acting on the Report of a Departmental Committee that reviewed the land belonging to the Department not at present used for military purposes, expected to be able to sell in the coming year a considerable number of detached portions of land. The area of land in possession of the War Office was three times what it was twenty years ago, and he hoped that the changes reported upon would enable them to dispose of a larger amount of land than in previous years. As to cavalry schools mentioned by the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London, he believed that £2,000 was the estimated expenditure during the current year.

SIR F. BANBURY said that the probable expenditure to March, 1907, £2,000, had already been passed; and there was to be voted for the year ending March, 1908, £6,000, making in all £8,000.

*MR. BUCHANAN said that he was in error, and that the work was now in hand. Money had been taken in the Estimates for drainage works at Kingston, but there had been found possible a diminution of the cost. As to the Portsmouth works, the full amount of the Estimate would be spent in the current year.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he would like to ask a question about Army hospital service and accommodation and annual maintenance and repairs. From the details given it was impossible to tell the way in which the money estimated for would be spent, and whether it would be spent on hospitals or barracks or rifle ranges. He would like some assurance that the money to be spent on hospitals had not been reduced. He did not think it desirable to produce the Estimates in such a form as made it impossible to tell whether the charge for hospital accommodation had been reduced or not. He hoped it had not.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he found under the heading of "various Colonial services" an Estimate for £10,000 for adapting defences to modern requirements, and he wished to know whether it contained any sum for the defence of St. Lucia. He understood that St. Lucia was to be regarded as a place which might potentially become a place of arms, if needed, ready to be occupied by a force at any moment. Was any of this money to be applied in mounting guns at St. Lucia in the present year? It was a matter of considerable importance, having regard to our West Indian Possessions, especially as we had not at the present time, in the view of many hon. Members, an adequate naval force in West Indian waters.

*MR. BUCHANAN said that this Vote did not include any money to be spent on St. Lucia. It was an item necessitated by the report of the Owen Committee, and the sum was the estimate of the probable expenditure for this year on the work of adapting the defences of our various Colonial stations to modern requirements. The sum would amply meet all the expenditure they would be called upon to defray during the present year. The hon. Member for Shropshire had complained that the Estimates for the year were not quite so definite as they should be about hospital service and accommodation. The reason was that there had been a change in the Department which administered Army hospital service and accommodation, but a full examination of the Estimates would show that an increased sum was being expended in the present year upon those services.

Lord BALCARRES asked if under the recommendations of General Owen's Committee works would be undertaken at Hong Kong or the Cape.

*Mr. BUCHANAN said that it would be impossible to say, because the order in which the work at different colonial stations would be undertaken had not yet been settled. The matter had been referred to a Committee of the War Office.

Lord BALCARRES said his point was that there was a sum of £10,000 being taken for the purpose of adapting the defences of our various Colonial stations to modern requirements, and they were not informed what the stations were with which it was intended to deal. The hon. Gentleman said that it had not yet been settled whether the money would be applied to Hong Kong, the Cape, Malta, or elsewhere. He thought the Committee ought to know where the money was to be spent. They knew that a good deal of work had already been done at Malta and the Cape, that something had been done at Gibraltar, and, he thought, also at Hong Kong; but they ought to know the work which was going to be done at each of these particular stations. The hon. Gentleman had admitted that the work had made great progress, and he wished to know why no entry had been made in Statement 3 to show what money had been spent on that service.

*Mr. BUCHANAN said that the Report of the Committee only came to the knowledge of the War Office in the month of March. That Report recommended that various works thould be carried out, and it was impossible, when the major part of the Estimates had been settled, to put in a specific sum for each of the works. A certain sum had been put into the Estimates, and it would be expended on the most urgent of those services. The service to which the noble Lord had referred was undertaken, not in consequence of the Report of the Committee, but long before that Committee reported. He could not promise that the authorities at the War Office should indicate the order in which the work was to be done.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT called attention to the improvement of rifle ranges. He thought the amount of £5,000, which was apparently all that was spent last year, was totally inadequate for the purpose. The hopes of the success of the Territorial Army were to a great extent based on the patriotism of the Volunteers, whose efficiency largely depended on these rifle ranges. The Committee was voting with a light heart, and without either reflection or criticism, millions of money, without there being a single supporter of the Government on the back benches. He ventured to say of the many flagrant instances of the contempt with which the Government treated the Committee this was the most flagrant.

Captain CRAIG asked whether the item of £5,000 covered the various rifle ranges in Ireland as well as Great Britain, and whether the improvements asked for in the Irish rifle ranges had been made, and, if not, why not. In Ireland, there were three ranges, only one of which was thoroughly up to date; the other two were by no means adequate. The garrison also used the range, the condition of which had become a source of danger, to which the attention of those in authority ought certainly to be called. Engineers had been down frequently, but the truth of the matter was that although large sums of money were voted for these ranges, the one which he referred to was being starved, and the starving of a range frequently meant considerable danger; they were also in great difficulty owing to the situation of the butts and targets, which were exposed to the full force of the elements, firing practice being thus rendered very difficult. A large sum of money was mentioned on page 77 of the Estimates, but he was not quite sure whether it was for the Territorial Army scheme. A very trifling portion of that sum would make the range to which he referred not only safe but up to modern requirements; and he was quite sure he had only to call attention to the matter to enlist the sympathy of the right hon. Gentleman and cause him to inquire into the matter of the three ranges to which he had referred.

*MR. BUCHANAN said that the item in the Vote had nothing to do with the Territorial Army Scheme, and he thought that the hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension in thinking that the sum in the Vote was for the purpose of the upkeep or the expenses of rifle ranges. If the hon. Member carefully examined the Estimate he would find that it was for barracks and rifle ranges, and if he looked at page 79 he would find that there was another sum for rifle ranges. There was no desire in the Estimates to avoid setting aside sums of money for both the construction and maintenance of rifle ranges.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said he had made a statement with regard to the ranges, and he had asked whether they would fall under the Territorial Forces Bill or not—that was to say, whether county associations were to be formed in Ireland, the same as in England, or whether they were to go on in the old way.

*MR. BUCHANAN said they would go on in the old way. The rifle ranges to which the hon. Gentleman referred would not come under the Territorial Forces Bill, but came under the Vote.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he was afraid that he had hardly grasped the statement of the hon. Gentleman. There was an explanation on page 77 of the Vote as to various local stations grouped together. They were grouped under rifle ranges for an amount of money stated as an amount to be spent on rifle ranges. Then on another page he found various other items; why were they not all grouped together so that they might be clearly understood, without all this confusion?

MR. J. WARD said that on page 77 there was a sum of £10,500 for the upkeep of rifle ranges, and he would like to ask a question about it. They had some time ago a discussion with regard to the establishment of rifle ranges on the tops of buildings and sundry other places. He was anxious to know whether the War Office had made themselves responsible for any of the expenditure to keep up those rifle ranges, or whether any sum for their establishment was included in this Vote.

*MR. BUCHANAN: No; none of those are included.

SIR F. BANBURY said there were several items in the Vote to which he desired to call attention. The first was a sum of £32,000 for the preparation of practice ground for camps. He complained that there had been an increase in the Estimate of about 40 per cent. He thought that was a kind of work as to the cost of which something like an accurate Estimate could be made At Trawsfynydd there was a sum of £22,270 put down on account of drainage and other works. In that case the amount had increased from £16,000 to £22,000, and he would like to know why that increase had occurred. Then there was an item for adapting the defences of various home stations to modern requirements. With regard to that a footnote stated that the statement was under consideration, but a sum of £50,000 was to be voted. There should be, he thought, some Estimate as to what that sum was to be applied to, and, unless he received a satisfactory reply, he should move a reduction of £100. There was another item of £10,500 for the central armourers' shops, and he would like to know why that Estimate had been reduced at a time when there were so many men out of work at Woolwich.

MR. HALDANE said, as to adapting defences to modern requirements, that the Owen Committee had completely revised the altered conditions of home defence. Certain places had been found to be more vulnerable than was imagined, and £50,000 was taken for the work that had to be done in the coming year in bringing certain places up to the required standard. The Department was also getting the central armourers' shops under better control, and there had consequently been a reduction of cost. The system now established was believed to be preferable.

MR. HUNT asked whether the item relating to the upkeep and improvement of rifle ranges included miniature rifle ranges.

Mr. HALDANE: No.

Mr. HUNT: Is the Government going to do nothing in the way of providing miniature rifle ranges?

Mr. HALDANE: That question is dealt with under the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Sir F. BANBURY, not being satisfied with the reply given by the right hon. Gentleman, moved a reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,435,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 38; Noes, 187. (Division List No. 229.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach,Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, Capt.W.V. (Hants, W.)
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edmd's
Hills, J. W.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Moore, William
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Hunt.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry,RedmondJ.(Tyrone,N.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,RtHnSirJ.T.(Cheshire
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert

Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Macpherson, J. T.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pollard, Dr.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

CAPTAIN CRAIG asked whether the item in the Vote they were now discussing for engine-drivers and stokers referred entirely to the hospital staff. It seemed to him that the sum put down required examination. As to the amount included in the Vote for hospital accommodation, was any of the money to be spent on the North of Ireland hospitals? He understood that the messing had been most uncomfortable, and had been conducted under the most disadvantageous circumstances. He asked whether the sum covered the provision of a permanent structure for cooking and baking. After spending large sums of money in acquiring barracks and camps, something really ought to be done to make the quarters of the Commisariat Department more comfortable. He asked whether there was not a differentiation of arrangements made between England and Ireland. He did not himself believe in what might be called barrack-room soldiers. The men ought to live as much as possible in time of training in this country under the conditions they would have to endure in time of war. but he thought arrangements might be made for the putting up of a wooden hut in camps where the men could cook their meals properly. He was sure that if that little assistance was given it would be appreciated by every man.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said that for many years he had taken a great interest in military prisons, for which a sum of only £1,000 appeared in the Estimates for the current year. It would be in the recollection of the Committee that a great scandal arose some time ago in regard to the insufficiency of the accommodation in military prisons. But the Secretary for War had not shown that the deficiency had been made good. Though there had been some improvement in the treatment of the prisoners, nevertheless great scandal remained. They knew that soldiers were sentenced to imprisonment for purely military offences which were not necessarily moral offences; and they were cast into ordinary prisons and branded as criminals for the rest of their lives. Anyone who had studied the question must have been deeply impressed with what could only be regarded as a serious scandal connected with military administration. He felt that the right hon. Gentleman was only trifling with the matter when he thought that the evil could be remedied by an additional £1,000 expenditure on military prisons. They were perfectly aware of what, from the sanitary point of view, was the *minimum* accommodation which civilised countries gave to a prisoner in a military prison. The accommodation in South Africa had very grave defects, and from the report of the chief inspector of local prisons there was nothing which showed that any adequate progress had been made in regard to the military prisons in that country. This was the first time he had spoken on military affairs in the House of Commons, but he thought that this matter demanded the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. He also wished to call attention to the sanitary condition of Perth Barracks. The right hon. Gentleman, who, like himself, had probably known these barracks since boyhood, must be strongly impressed with their inefficiency. They were not only out of date, but were in such a condition as to constitute a disgrace to the British Army. Those who had seen them, slept in them, and otherwise had to use them, knew that the barracks were unfit for the accommodation of His Majesty's forces. Had the right hon. Gentleman in his portfolio any proposal for bringing these barracks up to date from a sanitary point of view? He did not ask for that maximum of comfort which all Army reformers thought proper for barracks under the best conditions. He only asked that Perth Barracks should contain the *minimum* of usefulness from the military point of view for the soldiers who used them. As to the cavalry barracks at Windsor every student of Army matters knew that year after year considerable sums of money had been expended on making petty repairs of the buildings, which were totally unsuited to the work to which they were devoted. Officers holding responsible positions had reported time after time that they should be destroyed, and that public economy as well as the ordinary comfort and good health of the troops could only be secured by the erection of a modern building; but under these Estimates not a shilling was devoted to that purpose. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give some assurance to the Committee that another month would not elapse before he decided to demolish these two barracks and to provide cleanly and reasonable accommodation for military offenders, instead of confining them in the cells of ordinary prisons.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) wished to know why the sum set apart for the drainage of Kingston Barracks had been reduced by £1,000. So far as his information went none of the money at present voted had been spent, and the condition of the barracks was such that the men were compelled to undertake work of the most menial description such as would be performed by only the lowest class of the community. He urged the Secretary of State to give some reason for the reduction of the original Estimate.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.) said he understood that the Ballyshannon rifle range had been abandoned. As there were very few rifle ranges in the district that step had caused great dissatisfaction. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some explanation. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman was pledged to great economies in regard to expenditure, but the Estimates disclosed the fact that the War Office was an exceedingly bad sewage farmer. Expenditure on the sewage farms at Aldershot and Sandhurst amounted to £17,000 a year and the only revenue was £1,200, so that the loss amounted to something over £15,000 a year If that loss was incurred he would suggest that some other means should be taken of disposing of the sewage than that of sewage farms, which were open to suspicion because infection in the case of various forms of zymotic diseases had been traced to them. He took it that the land upon which these sewage farms were situated were Crown lands, so that there was no rent, and there was plenty of fatigue duty by means of which labour could be provided, so that that would not cost much. Under those circumstances he could not see why this loss should be incurred.

SIR F. BANBURY said that it would be recollected that a question had been raised as to the disposal of milk obtained from cows kept on sewage farms, and it had been pointed out that disease had resulted from the sale of such milk for the use of the troops. He should like to know what steps the right hon. Gentleman was taking in that matter.

MR. HALDANE said a very startling case had been made out with reference to the sewage farms at Aldershot and Sandhurst, but it could not be sustained, as there was a small revenue from them. The working expenses were very small indeed, and the £17,000 included many other items in regard to a number of other matters. As to the rifle range at Ballyshannon there was no reference to Ballyshannon in the Estimate, so he could not give information in regard to it. If, however, the hon. Member would put down a Question he would obtain information for him.

MR. MOORE said that if the Government had abandoned the rifle range there naturally would be no charge in the Estimate.

MR. HALDANE said it was dependent upon the "if," and if the hon. Gentleman would put down a Question he would answer it. As to Kingston Barracks they had examined into the matter very closely.

MR. HICKS BEACH inquired why they had reduced the amount.

MR. HALDANE replied that they did so because the amount was found to be too large, and surely the hon. Gentleman did not want them to spend too much. As to the barracks at Windsor, he thought the hon. Member for Hoxton was not so well acquainted with them as he was. The hon. Member had spoken of the cavalry barracks as being in a bad condition, but there were two barracks at Windsor, a cavalry barracks and an infantry barracks. The infantry barracks had been for years in a very shocking condition and this year they were pulling them down, rebuilding them, and putting the men in possession of cubicles. Therefore in regard to that matter they could not be accused of doing too little. As to the cavalry barracks, he was in the habit of employing his Sunday afternoons by taking his walks abroad. A short while ago he walked through these cavalry barracks, and he said that although old-fashioned, they were not bad barracks and they were fit to do duty for some time to come. Therefore he did not think there was much in the case about Winsdor. The hon. Member for Hoxton had also spoken about the small sum they had spent upon the prisons, but on a former occasion he had pointed out that their prison expenditure was diminishing because there were fewer prisoners. Then last but not least he came to the somewhat precise speech of the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Down, who addressed to him four questions. The answer to the first question was in the affirmative, the answer to the second was in the negative, that to the third was in the negative, and as to the fourth he was not sure.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said he was not referring to the infantry barracks at Windsor, but to the cavalry barracks, and therefore the right hon. Gentleman had not satisfactorily answered his question. Moreover, the right hon. Gentleman had not replied about Perth barracks. The Secretary of State for War's statement about the prisons did not dispose of the fact that there were grave defects in regard to the military prison system. It was nothing less than a scandal that the right hon. Gentleman should tolerate for one minute the state of things which existed. Military prisoners were condemned by their superior officers, and then for military offences sent to undergo imprisonment in civil prisons. During the South African War a great many hon. Members were very eloquent about the matter, and supported their views in the Division Lobby, but now, when their Party was in power, they came to shout down hon. Gentlemen who raised the question.

Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) asked whether the work at Kingston barracks would be done at once.

Mr. HALDANE said the Government had taken money for the purpose, and he hoped it would be proceeded with.

Mr. HUNT inquired whether under this Vote he might discuss the prison accommodation on board ships.

*The CHAIRMAN said the question did not arise on the Vote.

Mr. MOORE said that in reference to his statement about sewage farms the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out that the item of £17,000 included the cost of the sewage farms at Aldershot and Sandhurst, while the revenue from them was appropriated in aid. He would like to know where the appropriations in aid could be found.

Mr. HALDANE said the details of the £17,000 included a vast number of items besides those relating to Aldershot and Sandhurst. The amounts received from the Army sewage farms would be found at page 81, and he thought there was an exact balance if there was not a small profit.

Mr. MOORE said that was not the point he raised. There appeared to be a net working loss of £15,000, but the right hon. Gentleman said the revenue from them was appropriated in aid.

Mr. HALDANE said his statement was that the £17,000 covered a vast-number of items and that there was a substantial appropriation in aid from the profits of the sewage farms.

Sir F. BANBURY said that as the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the revenue from the sewage farms was small he had jumped to the conclusion that there were no cows kept and that no milk was produced or sold. Now the right hon. Gentleman implied that there were receipts from these farms, and therefore he had not answered his question about the milk. He wanted to know who drank the milk from these sewage farms.

Mr. HICKS BEACH inquired as to an item as to barracks and wished to know whether the money was to be spent at Hong-Kong or Pekin.

Mr. HALDANE said the sum was for the barracks at Pekin. They were for the 250 men of the legation guards and would be commenced as soon as possible.

*Captain FABER (Hampshire, Andover) wished to know what was going to be done about stables for the Scots Greys.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY moved the reduction of the Vote by £500 because the right hon. Gentleman had not given satisfactory replies and had not answered the last Question.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £2,435,500 be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 39; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 230.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.Sir AlexF.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J.
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Moore, William
Nield, Herbert
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,T.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Valentia, Viscount
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Claude Hay and Captain Faber.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace,William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Chance, Frederick William
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)

Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pollard, Dr.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas(W. Mon'mth
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H (Denbighs)
Robinson, S
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliff
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Verney, F. W,
Vivian, Henry
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Tren
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, Henry A.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshi
Whitley, John Henry (Halifa
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W
Wilson, John (Durham, Mi
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras,
Wilson, W. T. (Westhought
Wodehouse, Lord

TELLERS FOR THE NOES, M
Whiteley and Mr. J.
Pease.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again Tomorrow.

AUSTRALIAN STATES CONSTITUTION BILL.

Order for the Second Reading read.

It being after Eleven o'clock, and objection being taken:—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.) appealed to hon. Members opposite to withdraw their objection and allow the Bill t pass. There was no objection to it; th measure had been agreed upon by all th Australian States, and there was nothin to discuss. He had every reason believe that it was a non-controversi Bill. [The objection was persisted in He hoped the House would note th attitude of the Imperial Party.

And, it being after half-past Eleven the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned t House without Question put, pursua to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty - th minutes before Twel o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 12th June, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Killery's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Petition of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery, by her Agents, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, praying that substituted service of a copy of the Bill, together with notice of the Second Reading thereof, and all other notices or orders connected therewith, may be made upon Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Company, at 36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. Considered (according to order). Counsel called in. Witnesses examined. Ordered that service of a copy of the Bill and of the Order for the Second Reading thereof upon the said Messrs. Field, Roscoe, and Company be deemed as good service of the said Bill and Order as if the same had been personally served upon Captain St. John Brown Killery. Bill to be read 2ª on Thursday the 20th instant. The usual Orders made.

York (Micklegate) Strays Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Committed.

London County Council (Money) Bill. —Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Keswick Urban District Council (Water Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Leave given to the Joint Committee to report from time to time.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl Bathurst and the Viscount Hill be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Craven and the Lord Hastings. Read, and agreed to.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª to-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRINIDAD.

Panama Isthmian Canal Labour Contract.

TREATY SERIES, NO. 15 (1907).

International Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armies in the field; signed at Geneva, 6th July, 1906. (British ratification deposited at Berne, 16th April, 1907).

CHINA, NO. 1. (1907).

Report, by Mr. W. J. Garnett, of a journey through the provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu (with two maps).

MISCELLANEOUS, NO. 3. (1907).

Reports from His Majesty's representatives in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies respecting the application of the principle of proportional representation to public elections.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3821. Greece (Finances for 1906).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, confirming a by-law made by the Boston Pilot Commissioners in substitution for No. 5 of the by-laws approved by Order in Council of 28th November, 1889.

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.

Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, applying the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, to the territory of Swaziland.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL ACT, 1865.

Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, approving a memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the grant of a pension to Mr. J. Baker, one of the masters of the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich.

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSION ACT, 1865.

Order in Council, dated 1st June, 1907, approving a memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sanction to the payment of special allowances to Officers selected for the Staff of the War Course College at Portsmouth.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Report of the proceedings of the Board of Trade up to the 31st December, 1906, and of the proceedings of the Light Railway Commissioners up to the same date.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE, ETC.

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit until further order. (No. 70.)

QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN (COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS) BILL. [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, in rising to move the Secon Reading of this Bill I feel a certain reli in the fact that it is one which cuts acro the ordinary line of political divisions i this House. It will, I hope, receiv support not merely in the division lobb but also of an articulate, and, I a sure, a valuable character from som noble Lords opposite.

This, as many of your Lordships know is no new question in this House. I not intend to spend any time in referrin to what has been done in the matter another place; but I may remind yo Lordships that as long ago as the yea 1890 the noble Earl, Lord Meat brought in a Bill to remove the disabili ties of women so far as county counci were concerned. That arose out of th fact that on the first London Coun Council three women sat, two by electi and one as an alderman. It was n until a legal decision had been taken th those ladies had to leave the council, a the object of Lord Meath at that tim was to anticipate the legal decision removing the disability. Your Lo ships, however, threw out that measu by a majority of more than two to one.

Then in the year 1899 the Lond Government Bill, under which the bo ough councils were framed, came up fro another place with the provision th women should sit on the borough council but, on the Motion of Lord Dunrave that provision was explicitly struck out spite of the strong support, in a ver interesting speech, of the late Lo Salisbury. Lord Salisbury founded h argument partly on the fact that wom had already sat upon the London vestri and it was well known that the boroug councils were only the old vestries something of a fancy dress, and cons quently it seemed unreasonable th women should not be allowed to sit up them also. Then in 1901, my nob friend Lord Aberdeen made a furth attempt to secure the admission women to the London borough council and, lastly, in 1904 my noble friend Lo Beauchamp introduced a Bill of similar character to that which I have submit to your Lordships to-day. Th Bill was lost by a narrow majorit fifty-seven voting against it and thirt eight for it.

In the previous discussions on this subject in your Lordships' House two noble and learned Lords have been very active—Lord James of Hereford and the noble and learned Earl on the front bench opposite who is about to move the rejection of this Bill. I need not say that, with their long experience, the House is naturally disposed to pay deference to their views; but I cannot help regretting that the lapse of time has made no difference at any rate in the opinion of the noble and learned Earl, and I can only trust that on this occasion his arguments may not prevail to defeat the Bill.

Now, my Lords, this is a measure of a modest character. What it does is simply to remove the sex disqualification for a seat on those local bodies where a qualification to vote exists. As your Lordships are aware, women can now sit on urban and rural district councils; they can sit on boards of guardians and on parish councils. In fact, of the local authorities in this country they can sit on somewhere about 9,000, whereas there are only about 500 from which they are excluded. I need not dwell upon the excellent work which has been done by women on these local bodies, both in relation to the care of the poor and in relation to education, to which I know the noble Marquess opposite can bear personal testimony.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Hear, hear.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: But I pass on to explain what this Bill does and what it does not do. It has to be observed that it creates no new qualification of any kind. It leaves the voting qualifications where they are, and simply provides that those who can vote can sit. The existing qualifications are various, and consequently the power to sit will also be various, and, I fully admit, anomalous. As regards county councils outside London, the qualification for membership is either being qualified to elect a county councillor or being so qualified in all respects except that of residence and being resident within a certain distance of the county, having a property qualification, or being a peer owning property in the county or being registered as a Parliamentary voter. The effect of that is that a single woman can vote at an election of a county councillor but no married woman can, and this Bill, in consequence, would enable a single woman having the qualification to vote to sit, but, of course, the qualification of registration as a Parliamentary voter would not apply.

Now, as regards, in the second place, the borough councils outside London, the qualification for membership of those bodies is either being a person qualified to elect a town councillor or being so entitled in all respects except residence and being resident within a certain distance and holding a property qualification. Here, again, a single woman can vote at the election of a town council but a married woman cannot. That is no doubt an anomaly, but I do not know that it is necessary at this time of day to defend the existence of anomalies in legislation. I think it is a regrettable anomaly in this instance. We should all, I am sure, deplore it if some Romeo and Juliet were parted, not on account of dissensions between their families, but because the lady could not make up her mind whether the prospect of married happiness entirely compensated for losing her seat on the finance committee. One only hopes these cases would be rare. But on the darker and more sinister possibility which might attach to the fact that though a married woman cannot be elected a widow can, I entirely refuse to dwell.

As regards the London County Council and the Metropolitan borough councils the case is different. The qualification for membership of a Metropolitan borough council is being what is called a parochial elector; that is to say, either a person who can vote at a Parliamentary election, or who, if outside London, could vote at the election of a county councillor. The result is that women otherwise qualified, whether married or single, can vote at the election of borough and county councillors in London, but of course they cannot at present, as we know, be members of any of those bodies. This Bill will enable them to be members; that is to say, any married woman who can vote can be elected. I do not go into the rather intricate question as to whether in all cases parochial electors are entitled to vote, because that affects men who are parochial electors as well as it does women.

Well, my Lords, such is the measure, and, as your Lordships see, it is an enabling measure; but at the same time the enabling powers are subject to considerable restrictions and qualifications. We have not felt it possible in this Bill to deal with or to alter questions of franchise, because those would raise a great number of new and very important issues. We have thought it better, therefore, simply to leave the franchise as it is, and to make the qualification follow the vote. It is an advantage, in urging a Bill of this kind, to have some pretty clear understanding of what the arguments are likely to be which are advanced against it. The noble and learned Earl opposite and his friends have two weapons in their arsenal, and only two, so far as I am able to judge from previous debates on this subject. The first of these weapons is that any measure of this kind is a bad one, because it removes women from the sphere of home, which she adorns, and plunges her unduly into the turmoil of public affairs. We who are promoting this legislation have, I think, quite as complete an ideal of what English wives, mothers, and daughters in the home can be as any of those who sit opposite to us, but we do not admit for a moment that that ideal is in any way compromised by, or can be regarded as being incompatible with, the exercise of these modest public duties and the doing of work for the benefit of their fellow countrymen and fellow-countrywomen.

There is another familiar figure which is sometimes drawn for us of the domestic woman—a sort of combination of the maid-of-all-work and the ministering angel. Such a woman is supposed to be devoted to the cult of the saucepan and the mangle, but also to be prepared, so to speak, to stand by and wipe the heated brow of the exalted being with whom it is her privilege to be mated. After a life of blamelessness and barley water she is supposed to retire to the chimney corner and there to occupy herself in making under-garments for innumerable grandchildren; and if the ideal domestic woman is not to carry out this programme in its completeness, her mental constitution is supposed to be so ill-balanced t it is practically certain that she devote her days and nights to breal up political meetings and assaulting police, and therefore women must no plunged into this administrative turn

But just consider the situation f moment. By the Education Act of 1 it is absolutely required that wo should be placed on education committ There is an uncontroversial subject noble Lords! We know very well education is possibly the most con versial subject at this moment, I am s to say, with which anybody can deal. I in the *animis cœlestibus* of the Right R Bench it has caused, as we know, s excitement from time to time. T again, there is the Unemployed W men Act of 1905. By that Act i required that one woman, at any rate, s be placed on every distress commit Is there any one subject more contro sial than the relief of the unemploy I confess that if there is I do not kno It may be said that women are co-op on to those bodies and are not ele I cannot see that that makes the fai difference. The fact of not being ele does not prevent the existence of troversy. Your lordships are not elec but at the same time nobody can poss say that the proceedings of this H are altogether free from controversy.

And I must be allowed to say, in pass that if it is imagined that the practic co-opting, or any extension of the prac of co-opting, could make up for the of this Bill I believe that to be a comp error. If your local government going to depend on a system of elec it stands to reason that those who are elected thereby lose a certain part of t influence. That is undoubtedly the f and it is not to be supposed that wo who wish to take an active part in work will be content merely to be ca in in an advisory capacity instead being elected. After all, the mat with which women are not now allo to deal, and with which, if this Bill pas they will be able to deal, are of a far controversial character than those I h mentioned. Sanitation is, after all very uncontroversial subject. The car lunatics, again, is not one which exci at any rate in this country, seri ntroversy. I say in this country ecause I am reminded that this perhaps ould not be true of all parts of the nited Kingdom. I remember when I as in Ireland receiving a letter from a v. gentleman connected with a lunatic ylum, bitterly complaining that the ylum's board was entirely composed of eople of one political complexion and e religious faith, and he added—

> “I enclose a list for your Excellency's infor- ation of a number of gentlemen who are in every ay admirably qualified to represent the 300 mates of this establishment who are their -religionists.”

ut in this country, I am happy to say, e are free from difficulties of that kind.

Then, again, there is the question of ousing, the care of very young children, omes for inebriates, and other matters, l of an uncontroversial character, and n which women are not now allowed to ssist, but in which they would be lowed to assist if this Bill became law. must say that what I called the domestic gument cannot, in my opinion, be stained.

Then I pass to the second argument hich I am certain will be used by the oble and learned Earl, or, at any rate, y some of his supporters—namely, that ven if this measure could be held to be harmless one in itself, it is not harm- ss because it must inevitably lead to omething else—to the Parliamentary anchise, to which noble Lords are pposed. That, of course, is the familiar gument of the thin end of the wedge, d in the debate in this House in the ear 1899 the late Lord Salisbury pointed t, with very great force, that that gument did not apply in this case. As e said, the question is into what log the edge is being driven. If there are two gs and you are not driving the wedge to the one which you are afraid may e split—as we maintain is the case in is instance—then the argument falls to e ground.

Well, my Lords, can it be maintained at passing this Bill would necessarily ad in any way to the granting of the arliamentary franchise to women? I nfess that, as one looks at the course legislation in this country, one is ometimes tempted to wonder whether nything ever follows anything else, except in mere succession of time. It is, of course, a question upon which every one must have his own opinion. We have recently had a very striking instance to that effect. Your Lordships will remember that some little time since we on this Bench were questioned, before the appearance of the Irish Council Bill, as to the character and intentions of that proposed legislation. I ventured to point out at the time that when the Bill appeared some people would say that it inevitably led to Home Rule and others would say precisely the contrary. Your Lordships will remember what occurred. On one side the Irish Nationalist Convention—and, I think, Mr. Balfour—stated that under no possibility could that Bill lead to Home Rule. On the other hand, a very large number of persons throughout the country said that it undoubtedly would. And that seems to me an illustration of the extreme difficulty of prophesying in these matters as to what the future effect of any single piece of legislation is likely to be.

Now, what are the objections that are largely taken to the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women? They are very largely, in the first place, of what I may call an instinctive character—a general feeling, deep-seated and strong in some minds, that it is not a desirable thing that women should have to do with Imperial affairs; and, again, it is pointed out that there is a very large area of national interest with which women are not concerned. It is not merely a question of the Army, the Navy, and the police; there are also a vast number of national interests, industrial and otherwise, in which women have no part. Besides, there is the whole mercantile marine; the whole fishing industry; practically, you may say, the whole mining industry; all the heavy trades connected with the working of iron and other metals; the whole building trade; practically the whole business of agriculture, and also, in an entirely different line, commerce, banking, and what is generally known as “the City.” In all these matters women take no direct part, and that, it is held, is a reason for not conferring the Parliamentary vote upon them. I do not say that that is a conclusive argument, but it is an argument which has to be met; and I only mention it on this occasion in order to point out that nothing of the kind applies in this case, because the matters with which women will have to deal, if this Bill is passed, are, almost without exception, matters in which women are interested, at any rate to a great extent, and in many cases to quite as great an extent as men.

And then again, my Lords, it cannot be said that women do not want this legislation. So far as I know, there is no opposition from women to the granting of these local powers, but, on the contrary, a vast number of representations from bodies of women have been received by the Local Government Board asking that this may be done. That, again, is a matter which I think your Lordships ought to take into consideration, as in some degree differentiating this question from that of the Parliamentary franchise.

All I can do is to leave the measure in the hands of the House. I am certain that your Lordships will desire to give such weight as is due to the fact, which I certainly believe to be a fact, that the passage of this measure through another place would not be difficult. It is, so far as I know, a measure which would certainly receive no Party opposition elsewhere, although, of course, there may be individuals who do not regard it as necessary. In conclusion, I entreat your Lordships not to stand in the way of what I believe to be a very moderate and a most necessary reform.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Earl of HALSBURY, who had given notice, on the Motion for the Second Reading, to move that the Bill be read 2ª this day six months, said: My Lords, I am rather gratified to find that the difference between the noble Earl and myself is not so great as might be supposed. It seems to me that the latter part of his speech might have been delivered very appropriately on a proposal to give the Parliamentary franchise to women, and to my mind his argument led to the conclusion that, if this Bill ought to be passed, there is no conceivable reason why women should not have the Parliamentary franchise.
to the distinction which he drew
regard to occupations in which he sa
women were not interested, I suppo
they are interested in the lives of th
husbands and also in the industries
which they are supported.

I confess I had expected rather to h
the noble Earl describe what the thi
were which he wished women to
which they are at present prevented fr
doing. The noble Earl, who speaks w
great authority in the matter, has told
over what a large area the influence a
power exercised by women at prese
extends; but if he had told us what it
he wants women to do which they are
present prevented from doing it wo
have been much easier to deal with t
question. I can assure him that I ha
given considerable time to the mat
but have endeavoured without succ
to frame an Amendment which would
consistent with the Bill and would g
to women the power to exercise th
influence in matters with which they
more familiar than men. But the trut
that a great many of these things are
present within the power and influe
of women; and when he says no one
exaggerate the work that has been d
by women in different fields the difficu
is to find out where it is that the inabili
of a woman to be a county counci
has prevented her from exercising
qualities she is so well able to exercise

One of the two subjects mentioned
the noble Earl was sanitation. W
why not bring in a Bill which would p
mit women to be engaged in this w
in an advisory capacity? I am afr
I cannot concur with the noble Earl th
the fact of their occupying an advis
position only would diminish their
fluence. Confining myself for a mom
to the one subject of sanitation, which
only use as an illustration, what wo
prevent an obligation being impo
similar to that adopted in the case
education committees to admit women
public health committees? I am s
that if the noble Earl would take t
action in regard to any one of th
fields of influence in which women are
useful he would find no opposition fr
this side of the House. But it does
follow from that that women ought to

permitted to do everything that a county councillor can do.

The field of employment occupied by a county councillor seems to be forgotten. Why, there is hardly any subject matter which Parliament can deal with with which a county council cannot, and it seems to me that if the proposal contained in this Bill is agreed to it will be one of the strongest possible arguments in favour of the proposal—upon which I observed the noble Earl dwelt in very cautious language—to give the Parliamentary franchise to women. One cannot help feeling that this is a Bill to satisfy an engagement made, I think, by the Prime Minister himself. What change has there been since 1899, when this particular question was discussed in a very considerable House and the proposal rejected by a majority of more than two to one, to make the Bill necessary? And let me remind the noble Earl that that was not an occasion when the whole question arose. It had been the practice and the law that women could sit on the old metropolitan vestries, and the noble Marquess, Lord Salisbury, pointed out, with great force, that because the name of the body was changed it was unreasonable to alter the qualification. But that does not apply here.

You are now proposing to give women the complete franchise, enabling them to sit as members of county and borough councils. Women are, under this Bill, to be brought in upon equal terms. This will, of course, necessitate lady candidates at elections. They must, I suppose, come out and address the electors, and one of the difficulties which I cannot help feeling is that you would not be likely to get those women who do and have done so much to come forward to fight elections. I ask again what change has there been since 1899 to make the Bill necessary? Is it the attempt which has been made from time to time to wrest the wider privilege from Parliament? I confess that I regard this, apart from the merits of the scheme itself, as a matter of very dangerous example. Is it a proper mode of government to make bargains with a certain number of persons who are violent in their views? I confess that appears to me a very serious proceeding. Are you likely to add to the usefulness of those women who have distinguished themselves in what may be called the humanitarian area by giving them seats on these bodies?

This Bill is simply the abolition of the disqualification of marriage or sex. Therefore, to take the noble Earl's illustration, we may have Romeo speaking on one side and Juliet on the other, and that is one of the ideas that you are to bring into politics and into the county councils. To suggest that county councils are not political is, to me, rather a monstrous idea. There is hardly a debate in a county council which does not more or less turn on some political view. Happily the views are a little more harmonious at present than they used to be in county councils. I should like to know why this Bill has been produced. Has anything lately occurred to render it necessary? Has the little interview between the Prime Minister and some of the ladies who take strong views on this matter anything to do with it? The noble Earl said something about the extraordinary number of persons who had communicated with the Local Government Board inviting the introduction of such a Bill. Can he tell us the numbers? I should like to have details as to the numbers, because I have never heard that more than a small minority are in favour of the female franchise.

The principle really raised is that of the Parliamentary franchise. I say even now that if a mode could be discovered by which a particular thing could be done by women which they are not able to do at present but ought to be able to do, I should be delighted to assist, but I do not see how that can be done in this Bill. This is a Bill which in broad terms removes disqualification, and I do not see how it is possible to ingraft any Amendment of the kind I have suggested. Therefore, either the Bill in its present form must be passed or it must be rejected.

I do not wish to prolong the debate further. The matter is a very old one. I do not think this is to be described as the thin end of the wedge. It is the wedge itself. By passing this Bill you will be giving the whole thing, and I maintain that if the Bill passes there is no answer to the demand for the Parliamentary franchise. There are, of course, anomalies there. A lady owning a large estate and perfectly intelligent and able to form a judgment on important questions—she might be a director of a bank or hold similarly important positions—has no Parliamentary vote, while her coachman who lives in the lodge at the gate has. That is one of the anomalies which has been over and over again urged in respect of the Parliamentary franchise. I admit that anomaly. The answer to the present contention is that the whole of the discussions in county councils, apart from those matters in regard to the administration of which I am quite willing to admit women, are inappropriate to and not fitted for participation in by women. I think they are too hysterical, they are too much disposed to be guided by feeling and not by cold reason, and they are very much disposed to refuse any kind of compromise. I do not think women are safe guides in government; they are very unsafe guides when they argue from sentiment and not from reason. I beg to move my Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Halsbury.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, it sometimes falls to my lot at the close of your Lordships' debates to take upon myself to express what I believe to be the feelings of noble Lords with whom I generally have the privilege of acting. But upon this occasion, as the noble Earl opposite has truly said, we are dealing with a question which has never been dealt with upon Party lines, and if I rise now it is merely for the purpose of expressing the way in which the question before your Lordships presents itself to my own judgment.

I will venture upon one preliminary observation. It is this. I trust that during the rest of this debate we shall continue to treat the subject as both the speakers who have addressed us have treated it, and that it will be discussed entirely from what I would call the practical point of view. I have seen many dissertations upon this and kindred questions affecting the political position of women. They are sometimes treated upon high scientific and physiological grounds. We are told that the present predominance, if I may use the expression, of the male sex is the result of an entirely unnatural usurpation, and we are invited to consider, for example, the superiority, both in size and strength, of female over male spiders, and to draw conclusions from this and similar analogies. I put on one side all considerations of that kind. There are other considerations which I venture to think we need also leave out of account. It is perfectly true that the question of the Parliamentary suffrage for women has been the occasion of noisy and unwise demonstrations, but I do not think that that is a fact which need in the least influence us in considering the question now before the House. The only considerations which seem to me to be worthy of attention are those which have to do with the efficiency of these important municipal bodies. I believe I shall only express a feeling unanimously entertained in this House when I say that we all of us consider that the co-operation of women in these matters of municipal administration is of the utmost value in regard to all subjects in reference to which such co-operation can be usefully invoked.

Wherever our municipal administration touches the home life of the people, wherever it has to do with the health either of individuals or of classes, or of the whole community, wherever it touches the question of education, there, I think, we shall all agree that the advice and assistance of women should be invoked so far as it is possible to invoke it. Much has already been done in that direction. Women are now serving upon boards of guardians, upon district councils, and upon parish councils, and all those who have had to do with them as colleagues in the transaction of business of that kind will be ready to bear witness to the great usefulness of their co-operation. Upon the county councils they already have a place, a place which they fill most usefully—namely, on the education committees.

Well, my Lords, the question is, Can we go further in that direction? If I had to answer that question I should certainly answer it in the affirmative. It seems to me that there is no reason why we should cry a halt at education, and why, if the assistance of women is resorted to in regard to questions concerning education, it should not be also resorted to in regard to a number of other questions which come before county and borough councils. The noble Earl gave a rough sketch of some of those questions. It was an enumeration which seemed to me to be one which most of us would be willing to accept. He referred to the management of asylums, to the housing question, to the administration of such Acts as those which have reference to shop hours and questions of that kind, to the protection of infant life, to the care of inebriates, to the employment of children, to the carrying out of the laws with regard to midwives, and generally, to questions dealing with public health. Upon all questions of that kind—and I do not suggest for a moment that the list is an exhaustive one—I think we should be able to resort to the assistance of women to a greater extent than we do at present. Therefore I hope I have said enough to show that I do not approach the proposal of His Majesty's Government in any captious or needlessly critical spirit.

But, my Lords, I do ask myself whether it is quite clear that the Bill proceeds in the most appropriate way. It is certainly a very long step in advance. I heard the noble Earl describe it just now as a measure of a very modest character. I am always a little alarmed when I hear the Government describe their measures as of a modest character. I am almost sure that a Bill dealing with Ireland, upon the fate of which I need not comment, was described by its author as a modest and unassuming Bill. My noble friend behind me dealt at some length with the question of the Parliamentary suffrage, but some of the arguments of the noble Earl opposite, if pushed to their legitimate conclusion, would, I think, go far towards actually introducing women into the other House of Parliament. It would tax one's ingenuity to frame a list of the measures that come before Parliament in which women are not interested. They have a great and a very legitimate interest in most of them, and we have to consider further developments.

After all, county councils are, you may fairly say, provincial parliaments, and a great deal of the business before them is business of a very important and commanding description, and I feel that the arguments which would justify the admission of women for all purposes as members of county councils would go very far indeed towards justifying not only a change with regard to the Parliamentary franchise, but even the admission of women to legislative powers. The Bill admits women to these councils with only one reservation, and that is that if a woman has the good fortune to become mayor she is not to be allowed to exercise judicial functions. I own that I am not entirely satisfied that the Bill does not go somewhat too far in this direction, and I would also like the House to consider whether there are not other points at which the Bill does not go far enough. If this Bill were to become law, unless I misunderstand its provisions, you would not have the slightest security that upon any county council in the United Kingdom there would be a single woman member. The Bill is an enabling Bill. On the other hand, in some counties you might have the council flooded by women.

Again, I ask, is it quite clear that by means of the proposals in this Bill you will obtain exactly the right sort of women as your assistants and advisers? We all listened with interest and amusement to the noble Earl's description of that ideal domestic woman whom he described as a kind of cross between a ministering angel and a maid-of-all-work. But, my Lords, putting that lady on one side, is it not likely that, if you make the only avenue to these county councils a political contest at an election, you will get women of the class who rather enjoy the hurly-burly of political life, but not those women who in a quieter and more unobtrusive manner devote themselves to the consideration of those important matters of detail which are now so well dealt with at our parish councils and boards of guardians?

I ask myself, then, whether there is no possible alternative to the procedure which this Bill proposes, and I own that I am attracted by the precedent afforded to us by the Education Act of 1902. Under that Act it is laid down that on all the education committees there must be a certain number of women. Now why should it be impossible to extend that procedure, and to say that not only upon education committees, but upon all committees dealing with business for which women have any particular aptitude, a certain number of women should have seats? I should like to have that question thoroughly considered as an alternative to the scheme of His Majesty's Government. Let us have more committees, let us have more women upon them, and let the arrangement be an obligatory one. That would enable you to obtain what you require, which is the co-operation and advice of women, without raising at every county council election this question of sex, which is, as a rule, discussed with so much angry feeling. That is my opinion as at present advised with regard to the Bill.

I ask myself how, when it comes to a division, shall I cast my vote. Regarding the Bill, as I do, as an announcement, an affirmation, of the principle that it is desirable that we should extend the opportunities now offered to women for taking part in the municipal affairs of the country, I feel that I cannot vote against it. I should be sorry, indeed, if a vote of this House were to have a result which would be interpreted in the country as an indication that your Lordships were indifferent or hostile to the object which I believe both the noble Earl opposite and I have equally at heart—I mean the giving of increased opportunities to women for rendering useful service in our municipal affairs. Therefore, my Lords, I shall give my vote in favour of the Second Reading of the Bill, but I earnestly hope that the noble Earl will consider the suggestion which I have made, and it would be extremely satisfactory to me if in the result we should decide, after the Bill has been read a second time, that it should be referred to a Select Committee which might be instructed, not to take evidence as to whether it was or was not desirable for women to be employed in this way, but inquire whether the scheme of His Majesty's Government, or the kind of procedure which I have ventured to suggest, is the most appropriate mode of arriving at the desired result.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I am sure that your Lordships will be disposed to appreciate fully the tone of guidance which my noble friend Lord Lansdowne has given us, and there is scarcely one word he has uttered from which any of us would differ, except the momentous statement that he intends to vote for the Second Reading of this Bill. I would ask my noble friend whether he has fully considered the effect of such a vote by your Lordships' House. I fully concur that the scope of women's influence might be well extended, but this could be done without causing her to become that party political citizen against which position many of us object. But what does the noble Marquess suggest? Apparently without considering the political consequences of giving a sanction to this Bill he says that after it has been read a second time he will suggest the appointment of a Select Committee. The Government may, however, object, and then we shall have no Committee. What will be our position then? I have three objections to the Bill as it stands. I object to the circumstances under which it has been introduced, I object to the effect of the provisions contained in it, and I object to the inevitable consequence of this Bill becoming law. As to the circumstances under which the Bill has been introduced, may I remind the noble Earl opposite that it was not mentioned in the King's Speech.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Yes, it was.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I was speaking entirely from memory. At any rate we heard nothing of it until certain circumstances occurred. My noble friend Lord Lansdowne says that we may pass those circumstances by, and that they ought not to affect our judgment. I submit that they ought not to be passed by, first, because the persons to whom he was referring are the mothers of this Bill, and we have learnt from their conduct what to expect when women become party politicians. To my mind the conduct of these women in interfering with the free action of Parliament, and in endeavouring, by threats and such personal violence as they could command, to prevent Members of Parliament from exercising their free judgment, was a high crime and misdemeanour, which ought not to receive any approval from Parliament. Yet the Prime Minister is giving this Bill to these women as a concession; and that is a principle we ought not to ratify. I recollect that the loyal supporters of Mr. Gladstone were greatly tried when he stated that the blowing down of the walls of Clerkenwell Prison had created the Irish Land Bill. Many of us who were his ardent supporters doubted the wisdom of that statement, because it was capable of misunderstanding, and it probably produced injurious results. What are we doing now? We are admitting that if these women riotously assemble without the precincts of this House, and attend at the private houses of Ministers denouncing the action of the Party in power because their claims are not immediately recognised, they ought not to be punished, but to be rewarded by the granting to them of this great concession. I should like to ask the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council whether any single county or borough council has made a request for this measure.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am afraid I cannot answer the noble and learned Lord, but I will inquire.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I do not think that question requires notice. If there had been any requests for this measure from these bodies the noble Earl would probably have heard of them. At no single meeting during the General Election was this question ever mooted. The fact is, there has been no public demand for the Bill, which has sprung from one cause only—namely, a want of agreement in the Cabinet on the subject of female suffrage. The result was that a compromise had to be effected, and this Bill is intended to be a compromise to satisfy the women who are clamouring for the Parliamentary franchise. As my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury has stated, this is not the thin end of the wedge, it is the thick end of the wedge and the wedge altogether. If your Lordships accept this measure, making women eligible for the important position of Lord Mayor in great communities like Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, where is the man who would be able successfully to argue against their fitness to exercise the Parliamentary franchise?

This is a matter in which the step forward becomes of the greatest importance. My noble friend Lord Lansdowne has told you how vast a step this is. I think that the inevitable consequences of it will be that the day upon which this Bill becomes law all arguments against the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women will be sorely weakened, unless we wish to be illogical or to recall what we have done. We who oppose this Bill do not recognise the picture drawn by the President of the Council of the extraordinary Cinderella-like lady who sits in the chimney-corner looking after her grandchildren. We know not the originals of that sketch. What is to be feared is that if we take away the position which woman has hitherto occupied, which has come to her from no artificial education, but from nature, if we transfer her from domestic into political life, not only will the change affect political parties and the whole of modern politics, but the homes and the happiness of every member of the community will be worsened by the transference.

I look with anxiety to women entering into these Party contests, which are fought out with great heat. Political meetings are held night after night, and there is the greatest excitement. Is the woman candidate when on the platform to be treated as men are treated? Is she to be attacked and to bear the inevitable consequences of being placed in that position? I hope not; but if she is it is a destruction of the position she has hitherto held. But if courtesy is to be expected to be displayed towards her, what is to become of her unfortunate opponent? I can imagine an unfortunate middle-aged man who has done his duty and understands political economy being opposed by a lady who may be all that fancy may depict. She is to stand there safe from criticism, while the unfortunate man is subjected to bitter personal attack. We are introducing an entirely new system. Let women enter into these Party political contests and secure increasing influence on the county and borough councils and then you may be sure that that which will have attracted them so much will attract them more, and in a little while we shall have them clamouring as of right—and as of logical right—for the privilege of being able to take their seats in the other House of Parliament. But at the same time I repeat our desire that their utility apart from the struggles of political life shall be encouraged and assisted, and in this direction my noble friend Lord Lansdowne will receive our loyal, even zealous, support.

*THE EARL OF MEATH: My Lords, eighteen years ago I had the honour of introducing a very similar Bill into your Lordships' House. I reintroduced the measure in 1890, and it was again introduced in 1891. In 1889 your Lordships rejected the Bill by 108 to twenty-three. The next year you rejected it by 119 to forty-five; that is to say, the minority had nearly doubled. In 1891 I was indisposed and unable to bring the Bill forward, but my place was taken by Lord Monkswell. Unfortunately the leaders of the Gladstonian Party in those days were not so sympathetic as the leaders of the Liberal Party appear to be on the present occasion, for they advised Lord Monkswell not to proceed with the Bill, and after that I thought it was advisable to allow time to elapse before moving again.

I am now very grateful indeed to His Majesty's Government for having taken the matter up, but at the same time I should like to associate myself with the noble and learned Earl, Lord Halsbury, in asking why the Bill was taken up at this particular moment. I hope it really does mean that His Majesty's Government have the Bill seriously at heart, but from the fact that they have never yet, if they could help it, introduced legislation in this House I have my suspicions that they are not over anxious about it. I was therefore very pleased indeed to hear such a sympathetic speech from the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, and, in a less degree, the speech of the noble and learned Earl, Lord Halsbury. The noble and learned Earl stated that he was not opposed to ladies occupying positions which should be able to control certain fields of influence in which they were particularly interested and calculated to do good, so long as they were on advisory boards. I was also pleased to hear the statement of the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition that he intended not to vote against the Bill.

This attitude on both sides of the House is very different from their attitude on the last occasion when a similar Bill was before your Lordships. I recognise that, and I feel that the cause has gained enormously in those eighteen years, and probably all the more because the measure has not been brought before the House every year. The noble and learned Lord who spoke last asked whether any county council had taken action in urging Parliament to pass a Bill of this kind, and the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council did not seem to be certain on the point. I can tell both noble Lords that in five separate years the London County Council by large majorities petitioned Parliament to pass legislation permitting women to sit on that Council. I can only speak of the London County Council, because that is the only county council upon which I have ever myself sat.

Perhaps it may not be out of place to recall what induced me to bring forward a similar Bill to this in 1889. It will be in the recollection of your Lordships that in the year 1888 the Local Government Act was passed. That Act was to a certain extent a little doubtful in its terms as to whether or not women could sit on the county councils. When the election took place in that year Lady Sandhurst and Miss Cobden both stood and were elected respectively for the district of Bromley and Bow and the district of Brixton, and the same year the London County Council, by a higher majority almost than that by which any other alderman has been elected, appointed Miss Cons, who is well known as having taken a most active part in social work, to the position of alderman. Those three ladies remained on the London County Council for about nine months, and their fellow members had during that time an object lesson of how ladies behave on these bodies. The result was that, when it was found that these ladies could not legally sit we petitioned Parliament by an enormous majority to secure an amendment to the Act enabling ladies to do so.

During those nine months—and I regularly attended the meetings of the London County Council—I can assure your Lordships that those ladies, far from speaking frequently, only spoke on two or three occasions. On the other hand, they were most assiduous and attentive to committee work, and I remember that Miss Cons belonged to such a number of committees that her enormous energy was the subject of comment among the members. Even those who were opposed to women being allowed to sit on county councils acknowledged that these ladies during the time they were on the London County Council did a most useful work. I remember that on one occasion a committee had to inspect one of the buildings belonging to the Council. The committee walked through the building, saw everything, as they thought, and were perfectly satisfied that things were right. Towards the end of the day, however, it was noticed that one of the ladies was absent, and before we actually separated she reappeared and pointed out something excessively irregular which we men had all overlooked, and it was entirely owing to her that that matter was set right.

I feel that we must all agree with the noble Marquess that we ought to consider this from a strictly practical point of view. We must put out of our heads altogether questions of sentiment, and I am certain that the ladies who desire this reform would agree in that. If they come into public work they must put aside altogether questions of sentiment and sex, so far as treatment is concerned. They must expect to be treated in the same way as men—openly and without mincing matters. It is hard that the argument should be used in this House that because a certain number of lawless women have made themselves disagreeable therefore millions of their sex should be punished. These noisy women are absolutely repudiated by the mass of their own sex. Even the organisation which has been working for the Parliamentary vote for women has dissociated itself from these acts, and therefore it is somewhat hard that the whole mass of the women of the country should be punished for the acts of a few. Your Lordships have heard, far better than I can state them, from the lips of the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council the different social spheres of energy in which women can be occupied, but I do not remember his mentioning baby farms or industrial schools.

I would remind your Lordships that the position has altered a good deal during the last eighteen years. The Acts dealing with inebriates, shop hours, midwives, the employment of children, and the prevention of cruelty to children have all been passed during that time, and the question of the condition of the people has become a much more official one. It is much more under the powers of local bodies than it used to be, and the local bodies of the present day are largely associated with what was formerly considered private philanthropic work. Every year we are tending further in the direction of giving to local authorities more power to improve the condition of the people, in my opinion, rightly. I hope therefore that your Lordships will support His Majesty's Government by recording your votes in favour of the Second Reading of this Bill.

*LORD ALLENDALE: My Lords, I must ask for the indulgence of your Lordships in addressing the House for the first time, especially as I have so recently become a Member of this House. This Bill seems to me a simple and moderate Bill, and I am surprised that the noble and learned Earl who has moved its rejection was able to find so much material for his attack upon it. I had intended referring to the Bill which the noble Earl who has just sat down introduced in 1889, and to have read to your Lordships a few quotations from *Hansard*, but as Lord Meath is present I will not inflict any passages from his speech in that year upon him now, though I think much of what he then said would be very appropriate to this Bill, and a great advance in public opinion has taken place since 1889.

I am sorry, however, that the noble Earl Lord Meath questioned the sincerity of the Government in bringing in this measure. If the argument were admitted that a Bill of this sort should not be initiated in your Lordships' House I think you might almost say that no legislation of any kind should be initiated here, and that is an argument which those who oppose the existence of the House of Lords altogether might be very glad to use. I believe it had been the intention in the ordinary course that this measure should be introduced in the lower House, but, as your Lordships know, there is a great congestion of business there at the present time. I do not think the Government need offer any apology for initiating in this House a measure dealing, as this one does, with questions in which your Lordships are as much interested as any members of the community.

I consider this Bill, in spite of what has been said on the other side, a very simple and moderate Bill. What are the objections that have been raised? The chief argument of the noble and learned Earl who moved the rejection of the Bill and of Lord James was that which was anticipated by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council—namely, the thin-end-of-the-wedge argument. The thin end of the wedge has already been inserted, for, as has already been pointed out, there are many questions with which women can deal on local authorities. They can sit on urban and rural district councils, on boards of guardians, and on parish councils, and the matters with which they can deal on these bodies are very important and numerous.

A question was raised as to whether there had been any petitions presented to Parliament in favour of this measure. The London County Council, as the noble Earl on the Cross Benches pointed out, has petitioned Parliament five or six times; the Durham County Council, the Oxford City Council, and the St. Pancras and Lewisham Borough Councils have several times petitioned Parliament in favour of this legislation, and I believe other authorities have done so. Petitions have been presented both to Parliament and to the Local Government Board in favour of the proposal. I cannot see how this measure, if it is given a Second Reading, as I hope it will be, can, in any way, drive in the wedge, and open the block for the Parliamentary franchise for women. Personally I should very much deprecate such a proposal, but I would remind the noble and learned Earl who has moved the rejection of this Bill, that so far as any encouragement has been given to this proposal in the country it has largely emanated from those on his own side in politics. I believe—though I speak under correction—that the late Lord Salisbury made no secret of being in favour of this proposal, very likely for Party reasons, and Mr. Balfour, I think, also supports woman's suffrage. I understand that a good many members of the Conservative Party support the proposal because they think, rightly or wrongly, that it would assist their Party politically.

But, however that may be, I have voted in another place against the Women's Franchise Bill, and I should certainly deprecate any proposal of that sort. It is rather rash to prophesy, and we do not know what is in store for us, or whether candidates for Parliamentary honours and Members of Parliament will in future be more amenable to "peaceful persuasion," or the more violent methods which have been witnessed recently in the precincts of this House, but I think it will be quite time enough to deal with any proposal for the Parliamentary franchise for women when the demand takes practical shape. This Bill merely empowers the election to the local bodies of those who are quite competent to assist in the administration of their work, and I believe it is the firm conviction of a very large majority of the people of this country, without distinction of Party, that women can do very helpful work on those bodies. I therefore hope your Lordships will give this measure a Second Reading.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK: My Lords, when we are considering this matter I think we should bear in mind that the majority of the bodies with which we are dealing are not those stately county councils with which, in many of the shires of England, your

Lordships are familiar, but those bodies in our large towns upon whose administration so large a proportion of the welfare of the working-classes depends. It is, I think, incontestable that in many towns, from their social circumstances the number of people who, by education, leisure, and detachment from the engrossing demands of business, are eligible to carry on the work of the council in all its branches of administrative philanthropy, if I may so call it, is very limited, and it is therefore surely unwise not to enlist the valuable and willing reinforcement which women can bring.

Reference has been made to the very important speech which was made on a former occasion by the late Lord Salisbury. But the noble Earl who quoted it has not referred to what, to my mind, was the most striking passage of all, coming from one to whom no one would venture to attach the epithet hysterical. The noble Marquess said that—

> "What touch there is, what contact there is, between the working-classes and the classes that are above them, apart from matters of business, passes almost entirely through the hands of women."

If that is true, it is a very strong argument for not leaving these women entirely outside official ranks. The late Lord Salisbury also said, speaking of women—

> "Their presence on such bodies would be one of the highest, most constant, and most reliable stimulants to true and honest and unflagging administration of the law."

I think those are most weighty words, and I believe the truth of the facts lies with them.

It is very natural that in such a debate as this our old friend the thin end of the wedge should appear. It would be very unwise to throw into the arms of the noisy persons to whom allusion has been made, whose objects and whose methods I equally dislike, the thoughtful and accomplished women who are doing this service. I am certain that many of us who are very anxious to see this Bill pass are not thinking in any degree of any bargain with that party to which I have alluded; we are not thinking even of the rights of women; but we are thinking of the well-being of the community. Great testimony has been paid to the services of women, and I wish to see an enlarged sphere of usefulness for them in public life.

Then comes the question whether a place should be given to them by election or whether they should be co-opted. Unfortunately, whichever course you adopt, you will be liable to the danger of the method working in a merely political sense. I think I shall be confirmed by those who know more about the matter when I say that in the case of the appointment of alderman the expectation which was at first entertained was that the position would give a very happy opportunity for the introduction into local bodies of persons who would not go through the turmoil of an election, but whose presence would add to the efficiency of the authority; but, as a matter of fact, persons have, as a rule, been nominated as aldermen upon strictly political grounds. I do not think you are getting rid of that danger by adopting one method instead of the other. I might mention that in some cases women have stood for boards of guardians on distinctly non-political platforms and have succeeded in winning election. If women are elected to these public bodies in their own right they naturally have considerably greater influence than if they are merely co-opted.

The argument used with regard to Parliament ignores this difference, that these councils, though they may be little parliaments in their different spheres, have, if I may say so, an even more important side. I refer to the great administrative functions which are in their hands. They deal directly with persons and things. The members have, *e.g.*, to go down and see houses which are said to be insanitary, and it is in such matters as this that it is important that the women who attend to these duties should have been directly elected to that position by the ratepayers. I cannot help recalling an instance of a lady known to myself who was the first to be nominated to a board of guardians in a northern town. She was a refined lady and possessed a large amount of common sense. On the first issue on which she tried to move something she was very nearly being left in a minority of one, except that one gentleman, perhaps more chivalrous than the others, decided to vote with her, although he did not agree with her, in order to prevent that happening. But that lady subsequently obtained a position of great importance and influence on the board because she became an elected member of it.

If a woman is elected to a body she can deal much more effectively with the officers, and that is an important point. A matron or a superintendent at the head of a council's institution, not perhaps a person of the highest extraction or refinement, considers carefully whether the lady who visits the institution has any influence over his or her future, or whether she is merely a semi-official philanthropist. Therefore, if the alternative method of co-option is adopted, I feel that we shall not have done so much for utilising the valuable co-operation of women. I will only add that I hold these views though my own feeling is strong against female suffrage; and though I feel very strongly that the Government have been unwise and immoderate in allowing a provision to be included under which women could be elected to the chair of a county council or the mayoralty of a borough. That seems to be to go beyond the scope of the arguments which have been addressed to your Lordships.

Lord BELPER: My Lords, I have no intention of detaining the House at any length, but there are one or two considerations with regard to this Bill which I do not think have been put forward. I was rather surprised to hear the noble Earl who introduced this measure, and I think other speakers, treat the Bill as if the two bodies with which it deals had the same or similar powers. Now, what is the fact? The subjects on which it would be most desirable to have the assistance of women are admitted to be housing, sanitation, and questions of that sort. Although borough councils have considerable powers in regard to these, and for that reason it might be very desirable to have women on those bodies, county councils have no powers whatever in regard to these particular matters. Their powers have been given to the district and urban councils, and these bodies already possess the privilege of having women sitting upon them to assist in those questions in which, by general consent, it is admitted to be desirable that women should have some voice.

If the powers of county councils are considered it will be found that they do not deal with nearly so many questions on which the assistance of women would be useful as some of the borough councils. Take sanitary matters, which have been dealt with by more than one speaker. County councils have no direct powers with regard to sanitary matters, and they have no initiatory powers at all in this direction. They have powers of supervision and of direction, but it is so very difficult at the present time for county councils to carry them out at all effectively that the County Councils Association is making a very strong protest with regard to the position of county councils on that question. With regard to the other points, no doubt the presence of women might be extremely desirable on committees dealing with the management of lunatics and lunatic asylums. As far a my experience goes, those committees would certainly be improved by the co-option, not only of women, but possibly of other members, because it is very difficult on some county councils to get the busiest and most useful members to attend these committees. Then there is the question of the administration of the Midwives Act, and in connection with that it is obviously desirable that ther should be some power whereby women could assist in that work.

I must say I sympathise very largely with the view which was expressed by the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition when he favoured the co-option of women on to the committees on which they could do the most valuable work. It is not really a question of wishing to reject the Bill. As it is now, it is difficult for anybody who wants to get on to a county council to find a seat at all, and it is not likely that women would easily be able to secure election. The precedent in the Education Act, by which on education committees provision must be made for a certain number of women, has been found to work excellently, because those women most suited for the work have been able to be selected. How the suggestion of adopting that process as an alternative to this Bill can be carried out it is difficult to say but I would venture to ask whether, i a Select Committee is appointed to consider the matter, the Government will agree that the Committee should have power to consider whether the alternative suggested by my noble friend the Leade

The Lord Bishop of Southwark.

of the Opposition would not carry out what we desire better than the provisions in this Bill. If you can put ladies on in that way it is not necessary to abolish the disqualification that women are at present under of not being able to sit on county councils.

The remarks I have made are entirely with the view of securing the best local government we can. There is no other feeling in my mind. I do not think that if you secure the co-operation of women on the particular committees of county councils on which their assistance would be valuable you will do anything to bring the day nearer, which I hope will not come at all events for a long time, when women will seek to have either the Parliamentary franchise or to sit in the other House of Parliament. I should like to ask, as a matter of order, what is the best procedure to get this alternative suggestion considered? I should have great difficulty myself in voting for the Second Reading of the Bill, because I do not wish to see the disqualification which women are under from sitting on county councils done away with. I express no opinion with regard to borough councils, but if the Bill is read a second time I shall be prepared, unless some arrangement is made with a view to having the alternative suggestion considered, to move in Committee that county councils be excluded from the Bill. I hope the Government will be able to express some opinion as to how this end could be attained, and if the Bill is read a second time and goes further I trust there will be an opportunity of having this point thoroughly considered.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I desire to say a few words in cordial support of the noble Marquess's suggestion that this Bill should be read a second time and that we should subsequently consider in what way it may require amendment. The issues before us are not complex although the question is most important, and I cannot do otherwise than support, as I always have supported in this House, a Bill which gives true expression to what I am perfectly certain is the instinct of the community as a whole—namely, to enlist the services of women for the benefit of the community. No greater mistake could be made than to think this is a question of the rights or wrongs of women. To my mind that is not the question; we are thinking rather of the rights or wrongs of the community. I was surprised to hear the noble Lord who has just sat down give a list of duties devolving on county councils in connection with which he said the help of women would be exceedingly desirable, and then state his intention to move to omit county councils from the Bill.

LORD BELPER: My point was that the greater part of the duties were duties in which women would neither be useful nor probably wish to take part; but I mentioned two matters on which I thought their assistance would be desirable, and I suggested that they might be able to take part in those matters by being co-opted on to the committees.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: County councils have nursing work, the work of midwives, and the work of infant life protection in their hands. Infant life protection is one of the specific duties assigned to county councils, and one of the reasons why that particular Act has not proved as operative as it should has been the lack of women to give effect to it. This is one of the arguments which seem to me strongly in favour of our going forward in this matter. Speaking as one who has had a great deal to do with administrative work in which women have been concerned, I repudiate in the strongest way the idea that they have proved themselves impracticable and hysterical. There are many things in municipal administration which women would do better than men, and they would also do a number of things which men do not attempt to do. I most cordially hope that the Bill will be read a second time.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, I have acted for so many years in another place with my noble friend Lord James on the general subject, that I am anxious to address a few observations to your Lordships with regard to the course I propose to take on this Bill. I think there is a universal agreement in your Lordships' House, as I believe there would be in the country, in favour of enabling women to take a greater part in the work of county and borough councils in some way or other. It is unnecessary to repeat the matters with which such councils deal in which women could do useful and admirable work for the community, for those have been already alluded to by noble Lords who are well acquainted with that work. But I am bound to say I do not think His Majesty's Government can be congratulated on the precise manner in which they have chosen to deal with this question.

I hope I shall not be considered to view His Majesty's Government with incurable suspicion, yet I do think that in introducing this Bill it is just possible that they may have had the hope of placating some very foolish and disagreeable persons who have lately been causing them and their friends no inconsiderable annoyance. I also think that the argument which the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council addressed to your Lordships in defence of the precise mode which the Bill adopts was not a very strong one. He admitted that the Bill perpetuated existing anomalies in the manner in which women are admitted to vote in municipal and county elections, and extended those anomalies to them when sitting as members of those councils under this Bill. I do not think that His Majesty's Government can contend that this is anything like a complete dealing with the question.

But the noble Earl went further. He explained to us some powerful reasons for objecting to the grant of the Parliamentary franchise to women—he did not say he shared those reasons, but he put them forward as strong reasons—and he referred to many matters with which Parliament deals and with which women have no special concern. But, my Lords, are there no matters with which county and borough councils deal with which women have no special concern? Certainly there are. Of what service could a woman possibly be on a watch committee? Is it likely that the ratepayers would be benefitted by the presence on finance committees of women who have not studied finance and who are liable to generous impulses in the matter of expenditure? There are, on the other hand, important matters in connection with which women might do useful service. Why could not His Majesty's Government have acted in the manner suggested by my noble friend who leads this side of the House? By not doing so they have given very reasonable ground for the argument addressed to the House by the noble and learned Lord, Lord James of Hereford, to the effect that, if this Bill became law in its present shape, it would afford a very powerful argument to those who are in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. It is not, of course, a franchise Bill, but it would be said that Parliament had placed women in a position to be elected members of county and borough councils which deal with various matters in which women have no special interest, and therefore ought to give them the Parliamentary franchise, and certainly it would afford a very powerful argument to those who would be in favour if the Parliamentary franchise were extended to women, of allowing women to be elected Members of the House of Commons or to sit in your Lordships House. I confess that if we were now dealing with the Third Reading of thi Bill I should certainly record my vot against it on the ground I have named But recognising that it would be a misfortune if this House did not attemp to do something in the way of increasin the power of women to give usefu service to the public on county an borough councils, I shall vote for the Second Reading, believing it to be possible, if it goes to a Select Committee as has been suggested, to alter the Bill in accordance with my views. would merely add, in conclusion, that my vote does not depend on the view which His Majesty's Government may take o the possibility of the course being adopted which my noble friend on this side has suggested. The Bill is in the hands of your Lordships. If the Committee to which it is sent comes to conclusions different from those of His Majesty Government, it is open to the Government not to proceed further with the Bill, but at any rate your Lordships will hav given them a chance of dealing with th matter and will not have prevented it from being dealt with by rejecting the Bill.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY My Lords, I should not have intervene in this debate but for the fact that cannot entirely agree with my nobl friends as to the manner in which they have received the Bill. From my own point of view I shall cordially vote for the Second Reading, reserving, naturally, my right in Committee to suggest any alteration which I may consider to be of advantage.

I associate myself entirely with those noble Lords who have declared that this Bill will be of great advantage to the country as a whole. I have been absolutely consistent in the line I am taking, for I was the only Conservative Member who supported Lord Salisbury in opposition to the Amendment of the noble Earl, Lord Dunraven, excluding women from seats on the London borough councils which superseded the old vestries. My reason for supporting the late Lord Salisbury on that occasion was that my experience as Chairman of the London School Board had taught me the enormous value of women's services in local administration, and I was able to pay a tribute also to their lucidity, brevity, and good judgment in debate. We derived considerable advantage from the presence of ladies on the London School Board. During my term of office as Chairman of that Board I visited many crowded parts of London which were represented by these ladies, and I there saw the esteem in which they were held, the good work they were doing, and the influence they exercised over the managers and teachers. Their influence and power for good were greatly enhanced by the fact that they were directly elected and represented constituencies upon that Board. It was that position which gave them their influence and prestige.

I do not understand why women should not take the same useful part in county councils. If they serve on committees only they lack the *status* and prestige of representatives of constituencies, and they are subjected to the drawback of being unable to speak in the full council. I differ from the noble Viscount who spoke last as to the disqualification of women to give a sound opinion on finance. I think it is the women who generally manage the house books. In my opinion, where women are concerned their interests should be supervised by women. That is the main reason why I support the Bill. There are a great number of women under the control of local authorities, and it is here that a sphere of usefulness would be be open to women on these bodies. Take, for instance, baby farms, which are under the control of county councils. If there is one portion of the community which should be supervised in the highest degree by women it is those responsible for baby farms. Yet under our present system there is no woman on the London County Council to exercise that supervision.

Allusion has been made to the housing of the working classes and public lodging houses for which the London County Council are responsible. I venture to think that it would add very materially to efficiency if there were women on the County Council specially told off to supervise these matters. Then there is the question of the prevention of cruelty to children, which is taken up in every county in England. In this matter the women of England have taken a prominent and foremost part, yet the by-laws are framed by county councils. In the framing of these rules it would obviously be of great advantage if there were women on the county councils to render assistance.

Only a week ago I was told of an incident which shows the value of women on boards of guardians. A number of guardians, including a woman, were inspecting a workhouse school. The male guardians noticed nothing, but suddenly the lady member observed a little boy standing tenderly on one foot. She asked what was the matter, and the mistress told her that the boy suffered from chilblains. The lady, however, insisted on the child taking off his boot, and she found that the foot of the stocking had been cut off. Carrying her investigations further she discovered that quite a number of stockings had been cut in this way to save the trouble of darning. I only mention this to your Lordships as one instance of the value of women on these bodies.

I do not think that if this measure becomes law it will tend in the direction of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, to which I may say I am strongly opposed. I have always opposed the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, and I am convinced that I am not assisting to that end in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill. I have always held the view that if women were given the Parliamentary franchise they would in time secure seats in Parliament and become members of the Government, and we should eventually see a lady attaining the position so well occupied by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. In that matter there is no stopping the ball when you start it rolling, but I consider that the the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise is so entirely different from this measure that I shall cordially support the Second Reading.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON: My Lords, I rise to say but a very few words on this subject. I happen to be almost the only Member of your Lordships' House, with the exception of Lord Rosebery, who was on the first London County Council. I do not know whether your Lordships recollect that when the first County Council came into operation three ladies were elected as members and served with us for a certain length of time. I was then Chairman of the Housing of the Working Classes Committee, and two of the ladies were members of that committee. I should like to bear witness to the great usefulness of those two ladies in carrying out the work of that committee. They were the least talkative and the most active members, and they certainly knew more of the subject than the majority of the committee.

I also had experience of the work of ladies on other committees, and we found the same thing everywhere. They displayed ability, they were silent when silence was necessary, there was no volubility, and certainly the reverse of anything like hysteria. With regard to the suggestion that ladies should be co-opted on certain committees, I hope they will refuse to belong to any body unless they are given voting power. As to the question of finance, my experience is that almost the only economical people in this country are the ladies. If our national accounts had been in the hands of the ladies I am sure they would be in much better order than they are at present. In our own houses, who is the expensive one? Why, the husband always. And if you go down to another strata of society you find that the thrifty one is the wife. In my opinion it would be infinitely better that the people should be left free to choose their representatives from women for local councils.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I am very sorry to intervene, and I do not rise for the purpose of continuing this debate, but merely to ask a question which I hope the noble Marquess the Leader of the House will answer when he follows me. I want to know the reason why the introduction of this Bill has been so long delayed. Notice of the Bill was given in the King's Speech. As your Lordships know, we have not suffered from a plethora of work in this House. We have asked the noble Marquess over and over again to introduce Bills here, and he has in the most courteous and urbane manner given us a variety of reasons why that has been impossible. If it has been impossible to introduce this Bill before in this House, why is it possible now? In another place the Prime Minister has lately been giving a variety of reasons why some Bills have not been introduced and why other Bills have been introduced in a slipshod form. One reason given is that there has been want of time to prepare the Bills owing to the last autumn session. That reason at all events does not apply to this Bill. Another reason given is that there has been a difficulty in drafting Bills. That reason, again, does not apply to this Bill, which consists of very few words. Well, what is the reason? The Government know perfectly well that, owing to the Bill having been introduced on 12th June, whatever expedition your Lordships may use in passing the measure, it is impossible for it to become law. I am sure there is no member of His Majesty's Government who will say, in view of the confused and congested state of public business in another place, that it is possible for this Bill to become law this session, even if your Lordships should pass it through all its stages and send it down. The noble Earl the Lord President of the Council shakes his head. I should very much like to know the reason which makes him think that there is any probability of a Bill of this sort getting through the House of Commons before the middle of August, which is the time we are told Parliament is to rise. Can it possibly be that the members of His Majesty's Government are disunited on this subject? Does the noble Earl the Under-Secretary for War support the Bill?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): I am a ladies' man to-night.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I will not make a remark which is on the tip of my tongue, but will keep it to myself. But let me remind the noble Earl that when Lord Beauchamp moved this Bill or one very much like it in 1904, he was not a ladies' man. As he stated, he was a thorough Philistine in everything that related to persons whom he designated as political women. We all know that great changes are produced according to the part of the House in which one sits, and no doubt the noble Earl's changed position has produced this effect in his attitude. I conclude by asking the noble Marquess to tell us why he has not been able to introduce this Bill during the past three or four months, in the course of which we have been wanting something to do and have been refused it. And I want also to know, if it has not been possible to introduce it until now, why it has now been introduced when it cannot possibly pass this session.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, on many of the points connected with this Bill I should be very willing indeed to rest upon the speeches which have been made by the noble Marquess opposite and by my noble friend the noble Marquess behind me. Those speeches were eminently practical, Lord Londonderry having had experience of women's work on the London School Board and Lord Northampton on the County Council. They were an answer, and a powerful answer, I think, to most of the objections that have been taken to this Bill, because they were the answer of experience.

But, my Lords, I cannot allow this debate to close without saying a few words on what fell from the noble Viscount opposite at the commencement of his speech. The noble Viscount said he had something of a suspicion—he put it very mildly, I quite admit—that the proceedings on the part of certain ladies, whose conduct I condemn as strongly as anyone in this House, had had something to do with the introduction of this Bill; and I think I heard the noble and learned Earl who moved the rejection of the Bill use the word "bargain." The noble Viscount has fallen into an error, which is very natural, for this reason, that he was not in this country when Parliament began, and we have not had the advantage of seeing him here until quite lately. The fact is this. This Bill was mentioned in the King's Speech, and the proceedings of these ladies began after Parliament had assembled. Therefore the vague and gentle suspicion of the noble Viscount has no application whatever to the case.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: Then why was the Bill not introduced earlier?

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I have the noble Earl opposite to answer on that point. I am answering you at the moment, and will come to the other point afterwards. There are two forms of objection to this Bill. There is the objection of those who, like the noble and learned Earl who moved its rejection and my noble and learned friend Lord James of Hereford, object to this Bill because they think that it is a step, and a dangerous step, in the direction of that to which, at all events, my noble and learned friend Lord James has always been most vehemently opposed—namely, the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Now, I venture to submit that in objecting to this Bill on that account those noble Lords make a mistake. Looking at the considerable number of local bodies upon which women are now enabled to sit, there is no real distinction between those bodies and county councils. You can draw a reliable distinction between county councils and the local bodies and Parliament, but I do not think it is wise for the opponents of the Parliamentary franchise for women on that account to oppose a reform which must inevitably come.

I know that your Lordships entertain a great respect for the opinion of the late Lord Kimberley, and I will tell you what was his view upon this question. He was a strong opponent of giving the Parliamentary franchise to women, but he always voted for a Bill of this kind; and he has often said to me that his reason for doing so was this, that he thought that where you gave the franchise you could not upon any solid ground prevent those who had the right of election from sitting in the body to which they could elect. Therefore, as he did not wish to see the admission of women to the House of Commons, he, on this very ground, opposed the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. That view I commend to the consideration of noble Lords opposite. I think it is a very sound and solid view. I do not say how far I myself agreed with it; that is not the point at the present moment, but the distinction is clear, and it is one upon which those noble Lords who do not wish to go further can rest. But that you can rest permanently on a distinction between a district council and a county council I do not believe.

I should very much like to have heard what are the duties of county councils for the discharge of which you think women unfit. My noble friend behind me told the House of many duties which he thought women were eminently qualified to discharge. We have not, on the other hand, heard any distinct declaration as to those duties which women are thought unfit to discharge, and the testimony of the noble Marquess opposite, Lord Londonderry, to their fitness is founded on a most valuable experience. The London School Board, over which the noble Marquess presided, and on which women sat, had to deal with questions of finance and other matters, and he has told you the result of their presence. According to his testimony it was altogether satisfactory. I think he fully demonstrated that women were in no respect as members of the London School Board inferior to men. Then, my Lords, why do you object to allow them to sit on county councils? My noble friend Lord James said something about hysteria.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD: No, it was my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury.

The Marquess of RIPON: I beg the noble and learned Lord's pardon. The noble and learned Earl, Lord Halsbury, is not in his place, and therefore I have the greater difficulty in alluding to him. I know what the expression means, and I regret its use. I would give your Lordships my own experience as a former chairman of a board of guardians to which four ladies were constantly re-elected, doing the best possible work upon that board. They were not restricted to dealing with matters which related to the female paupers; they dealt with everything, including finance, and rendered constant and able service. There were many cases relating to the relief of the poor which might have excited an hysterical temperament, but those ladies were as careful of the interests of the ratepayers, as determined to resist improper grants of out-relief, and as firm in the right and proper administration of the Poor Law as any of the men who sat on that board; and that is my answer to those who tell me that you cannot put ladies on county councils because of hysterical tendencies.

That brings me to the proposal which my noble friend Lord Lansdowne has made. I listened to my noble friend's speech with deep interest. I thought it eminently skilful. It was one of the best instances of careful balancing that I have ever seen—so skilful that until the last moment I did not know on which side of the rope the noble Marquess was going to descend. The noble Marquess descended the rope on the side of a Select Committee. His alternative to our proposal is that women should be able to sit by co-option upon more committees of county and borough councils. But that is a solution of the difficulty which His Majesty's Government could not accept. I do not think it would prove in any way satisfactory. While women sit on education committees at present, and are able to defend their views and persuade members of the committee to accept them, they are unable, when the reports of the committee come before the council, to support their propositions there. That is a most erroneous and ignominous prohibition. It diminishes their utility and puts them in a position which it is not at all right they should occupy.

I think my noble friend Lord Londonderry took the same view. He appeared to feel, from his experience, that it was not right and fair that these ladies should be put on committees and then be precluded from discussing the reports of the committees when they came before the full council. For this reason there is no probability of the Government being able to accept the proposal of my noble friend Lord Lansdowne, and that proposal certainly does not come under the title of the Bill. I will not say whether the House has power so to alter the title as to get rid of the difficulty, but if you adopt that system you produce an entirely new Bill. It would not be the Bill you have on the Table now, and the proceeding of cutting out the whole of the Bill and putting in an entirely different title and different clauses would, I think, be in itself a proceeding open to objection. But it is not on that ground that I object.

I object to the proposal because it does not put women in the position which in accordance with the judgment of the Government they ought to be put in. They should occupy a position on the county and borough councils similar to that which they occupy on urban and rural district councils and other bodies. Is the work of an urban district council so entirely distinct from the work of a county council? It is similar in extent and nature. You admit women freely to the one and exclude them from the other. That is a distinction which cannot be maintained. I cannot think that the false position in which women are put by that distinction will be removed by the proposal of my noble friend Lord Lansdowne, and it will be, I imagine, my duty to offer my opposition to the proposal for a Select Committee.

Now, my Lords, as to Lord Camperdown's inquiry why the Bill was not brought in before, I may say that we were at first very anxious that the Bill should be introduced in the House of Commons. I have always been of opinion—I know it is an opinion which your Lordships will not agree with—that it was unwise for a Liberal Government to bring in Bills in this House; but as we are very often pressed to do so we are glad to do so when there is an opportunity. We waited, and immediately after Whitsuntide, when the state of business in the House of Commons was known to be unfavourable to its introduction there, the measure was brought in in your Lordships' House, and it was at the request of Lord Halsbury that it was not proceeded with immediately. Lord Halsbury requested my noble friend to put off the Bill for more than a fortnight, and in compliance with the wish of the noble and learned Earl that was done. Therefore a part of the delay that has taken place is due to the courtesy of my noble friend behind me, and not to any malign desire on the part of the Government. My noble friend also, I think, said there was no chance of the Bill passing. If the Bill goes down to the House of Commons there is every chance of its passing. There is always a period at the end of the session when your Lordships are considering the Bills sent up from that House when the Bills can be taken from this House, and I venture to think that if your Lordships will send down this Bill to the House of Commons it will become law.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, it may be convenient that I should mention the course some of us on this Bench propose to take in consequence of the statement which has just been made by the noble Marquess. We propose to adopt the plan which was foreshadowed by the noble Viscount, Lord St. Aldwyn. The Bill is clearly one which is under the control of your Lordships, and we suggest, therefore, that the better course would be that we should read the Bill a second time, and at the next stage suggest the appointment of the proposed Committee and take the sense of the House upon it.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I would like to ask my noble friend what will happen supposing the Government refuse to take part in that Committee. Are we, in that event, to have a one-sided Committee?

EARL CAWDOR: I cannot answer that Question now. We propose to move for a Committee, and then be guided by what takes place.

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Allendale, L.
Armitstead, L.
Barnard, L.
Basing, L.
Boston, L.
Bowles, L. (*E. Strathmore and Kinghorn.*)
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Burghclere, L.
Castletown, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clinton, L.
Colchester, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
De Mauley, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Ellenborough, L.
Farrer, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Forester, L.

Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
Hamilton of Dalzell, L.
Hastings, L.
Hay, L. (*E. Kinnoul.*)
Hemphill, L.
Hindlip, L.
Joicey, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Muncaster, L.
Nunburnholme, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Oriel, L. (*V. Massereene.*)
Pirrie, L.
Poltimore, L.
Rayleigh, L.
Reay, L.
Ritchie of Dundee, L.
Robertson, L.
Sanderson, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sinclair, L.
Sudley, L. (*E Arran.*)
Teynham, L.
Tweeddale, L. (*M. Tweeddale.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Waleran, L.
Weardale, L.
Wenlock, L.
Winterstoke, L.
Wolverton, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Richmond and Gordon, D.

Hertford, M.

Abingdon, E.
Carnwath, E.
Clarendon, E.
Coventry, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Feversham, E.
Malmsbury, E.
Shaftesbury, E.

Westmeath, E.

Atkinson, L.
Balfour, L. [*Teller.*]
Blythswood, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Hatherton, L.
Heneage, L.
Hylton, L.

James, L. [*Teller.*]
Kintore, L. [*E. Kintore.*)
Middleton, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Mowbray, L.
Newton, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Rothschild, L.
Savile, L.
Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Wemyss L. (*E. Wemyss.*)

Resolved in the affirmative; Bill read 2^{a} and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP BILL [H.L.]

Order of the Day read for receiving Report of Amendment.

THE EARL OF LYTTON appealed to the noble Earl in charge of the Bill to postpone its consideration until to-morrow. There were, he said, several noble Lords who were interested in the Bill and would like to discuss it, and it would be quite impossible to have an adequate discussion that evening.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said he was, of course, in the hands of their Lordships. But he would point out that in deference to the wish of the noble Earl himself he had put off the Report Stage for more than a week in order that he might put down some Amendments to Clause 5. He regretted, however, to find that no Amendment to that clause had been put down by the noble Earl. The noble Earl had, however, placed on the Paper an Amendment to Clause 6, which the Government were ready to accept, as well as, with the exception of one small one, the Amendments standing on the Paper in the name of Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

LORD **BALFOUR** OF **BURLEIGH** suggested that as all the Amendments on the Paper were to be accepted by the Government except one, which he would not press, the present stage might be proceeded with, and noble Lords who desired to say anything on the Bill could do so on the Third Reading.

THE EARL OF **LYTTON** said he was willing to reserve his remarks till the Third Reading stage if it was understood that there would then be an opportunity for discussion.

THE LORD **ARCHBISHOP** OF **CANTERBURY** asked for an explanation as to the effect of an Amendment which was carried in Committee to Clause 5. The words as they originally stood were—

> "Where in any premises forming part of an institution carried on for charitable, reformatory, or religious purposes——."

The words "or religious" were deleted in Committee, and he wished to know whether that change excluded from supervision or from inspection any laundry which, had those words remained, would have been supervised or inspected.

EARL **BEAUCHAMP** said that convents would be excluded from the operation of the Bill if there were no other inmates than the nuns themselves, no matter whether they did industrial work or not. If they had any inmates at all for reformatory purposes, they would be subject to inspection when regular industrial work was performed.

THE **ARCHBISHOP** OF **CANTERBURY** asked what would happen if industrial work were performed by hired women who came from outside.

EARL **BEAUCHAMP** said the Bill would still apply to them. With the inspection of convents in order to prevent abuses alleged to exist in the case of Roman Catholics and the Church of England this Bill did not profess to deal. It only professed to deal with factories and workshops, and to bring laundries under the usual provisions of the Factories and Workshops Acts. These laundries would be inspected.

Amendment reported according to Order.

LORD **BALFOUR** OF **BURLEIGH** moved an Amendment to Clause 5 (application of Factory and Workshop Acts to certain institutions) altering the subsection providing that the principal Act might be applied in a modified form to institutions in which the only persons working were inmates of and supported by the institution, or persons, not exceeding two in number, engaged in the general supervision of the work or management of machinery. His proposal was to omit the words "not exceeding two in number." He hoped that better drafting would be adopted when the clause went to another place.

Amendment moved—

> "In Clause 5, page 3, lines 31 and 32, to leave out the words 'not exceeding two in number.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*).

EARL **BEAUCHAMP** accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD **BALFOUR** OF **BURLEIGH** then moved to omit the word "general" before "supervision."

Amendment moved—

> "In Clause 5, page 3, line 32, to leave out the word 'general.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

EARL **BEAUCHAMP** accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

The EARL OF **LYTTON** moved an Amendment to Clause 6 (inspection of certain premises) to give the Home Office the initiative in the matter of the inspection of laundries or industrial work connected with institutions which were already under the inspection and authority of a Government Department.

Amendment moved—

> "In Clause 6, page 5, line 8, to leave out from the word 'apprenticeship' to the word 'and' in line 12, and to insert the words 'the Secretary of State may arrange with the Department that the premises shall, as respects the matters dealt with by the principal Act, be inspected by an inspector appointed under that Act.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the Government offered no opposition to the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª to morrow.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

House adjourned at five minutes before Eight o'clock, till To-morrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 12th June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [Lords]; Sunderland Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

United Methodist Church Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed.

Leith Burgh Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Leith," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Thursday, 20th June, and to be printed. [Bill 231.]

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords.]—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills, that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses for Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned think fit to be heard by Counsel and produce Witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Barry Railway Bill.—Reported with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill.—Second Reading to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to:—Brockenhurst Gas Bill, with an Amendment; Boston Spa Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to: Tyne Improvement Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

CONGO FREE STATE.

Petition from Beeston Hill for protection of the Native Races; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

Petition from Southport, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from Southport, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Ancrum; Hawick; and, Jedburgh; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPER LUNATICS (COST OF MAINTENANCE).

Petition from Houghton-le-Spring, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.

Two Petitions from London and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

Petitions against, praying to be heard by counsel: From Bristol Pilots' Association; Cardiff Pilotage Board and Pilots; Gloucester Pilotage Board and Pilots; Newport Pilotage Board and Pilots; Pilots of the Port of Swansea; and, Port Talbot Pilotage Board and Pilots; referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRINIDAD.

Copy presented, of the Panama Isthmian Canal Labour Contract [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 15, 1907).

Copy presented, of International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field. Signed at Geneva, 16th July, 1906. British Ratification deposited at Berne, 16th April, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CHINA (No. 1, 1907).

Copy presented, of Report by Mr. W. J. Garnett on a Journey through the Provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu, with two Maps [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH COLONIES) (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 3, 1907).

Copy presented, of Reports from His Majesty's Representatives in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies respecting the Application of the Principle of Proportional Representation to Public Elections [Address 18th June, 1906; *Mr. John Robertson*] [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3821 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUNJAB LAND COLONISATION BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th May; *Sir Henry Cotton*]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade up to the 31st December, 1906, and of the Proceedings of the Light Railway Commissioners up to the same date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 188.]

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSION ACT, 1865.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, approving a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sanction to the payment of Special Allowances to Officers selected for the Staff of the War Course College at Portsmouth [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, confirming a By-law made by the Boston Pilot Commissioners in substitution for No. 5 of the By-laws approved by Order in Council of 28th November, 1889 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL ACT, 1865.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, approving a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the grant of a Pension to Mr. J. Baker, one of the Masters of the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 1st June, 1907, applying the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, to the Territory of Swaziland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ALLOTMENTS AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

Copy ordered, "of the Allotments Acts, 1887 and 1890, the Small Holdings Act, 1892, and Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Local Government Act, 1894."—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 189.]

EAST INDIA (EXCISE COMMITTEE).

Address for "Return of Orders of the Government of India on Chapters III. to VI., VII., VIII., and X. of the Report of the Excise Committee."—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*)

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Return ordered, "(i.) Of the Companies registered during the year ended the 31st day of December, 1906, which filed a prospectus and to which certificates to commence business have been granted, stating—

(1) The date of Registration;

(2) The date of the prospectus;

(3) The amount of the nominal capital;

(4) The amount of each share;

(5) The amount issued or to be issued otherwise than for cash;

(6) The amount offered for subscription in cash;

(7) The amount underwritten;

(8) The commission for underwriting;

(9) The minimum subscription required;

(10) The amount allotted before commencing business;

(11) The amounts per share payable on application and allotment;

(12) The total directors' share qualification, if any; and

(13) The date of the certificate to commence business.

(ii.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which filed a prospectus, but to which certificates to commence business have not been granted, stating the particulars specified in (i.) so far as they are applicable.

(iii.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which filed a declaration that the Company "does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares."

(iv.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1906, which have not filed a prospectus or a declaration that the Company "does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares," and stating the particulars specified in (i.) so far as they are applicable.

(v.) Of the Companies which were dissolved or struck off the register during the year 1906.

(vi.) Of the total number of Companies dissolved during the year 1906 (1) by order of the Court; (2) after voluntary liquidation; and (3) pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1900.

(vii.) Of the total number and nominal paid-up and considered as paid-up capital of the Companies registered during the year 1906 in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, respectively, distinguishing limited Companies from unlimited, and Companies registered with a nominal capital from Companies registered without such capital.

(viii.) Of the total number and paid-up capital, including the amounts considered as paid on vendors and other shares, of all Companies having a share capital which were on the register on the 30th day of April, 1907, except such Companies as were in course of liquidation or removal from the register under the provisions of Section 7 of the Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1900.

(ix.) Of the total number and nominal capital of the Companies registered in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, in every year since the commencement of the Companies Act, 1862, to 1906, inclusive.

(x.) Of the fees and capital duty paid in respect of Registered Companies during the year 1906."—(*Mr. Lloyd George.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Costs of Irish Unions and Asylums.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the total number of inmates in the Irish unions and district asylums, respectively; and can he state the total cost to the country of providing for the same during the last financial year, distinguishing between the two sets of institutions.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*)—

Workhouses.

It is not possible to state the total number of inmates of workhouses for a year, as admissions only are recorded and the same person may be admitted several times during the year. The daily average numbers of persons relieved during the financial year 1905–6 were as follows—

In workhouses - - - -	42,906
In extern hospitals, institutions, and district schools - -	1,479

The following table shows the expenditure of boards of guardians for the same year under the heads specified—

	£
In-maintenance - - -	460,016
Expenses of district schools -	8,068
Maintenance in institutions of blind, deaf and dumb, and idiots, and cost of relief in extern hospitals - - -	19,719
Salaries and rations - - -	196,709
Cost of medicines and medical appliances in workhouses -	10,190
Superannuation - - -	20,807
Repayment of loans - -	23,248
Other Expenses - - -	134,826
Total - - - -	£873,583

Lunatic Asylums.

The total cost to the country of providing for the inmates of district asylums during the financial year 1905–6 was £520,027 8s. 3d. The daily average number of inmates was 18,967. The figures for the financial year 1906–7 are not yet available in either case.

Condition of Road between Ballynahinch and Spa, County Down.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the condition of a public road between Ballynahinch and Spa, county Down, and to the fact that an application was made to the rural council, and supported by the county surveyor, to have this road steam-rolled, but was refused by the council; and whether, in view of the fact that in the present state of this thoroughfare accidents to vehicles of every description frequently occur, he will cause inquiries to be made with the view of having this road repaired.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have been informed that the road in question is not in good repair, and that the rural district council have refused the county surveyor's application that the road should be steam-rolled. The Board, however, are unable to take any steps to investigate the matter until they receive an appeal from the Down County Council, under Section 82 of the Local Government Act of 1898, complaining that the rural district council have failed to perform their duty of keeping the road in good condition and repair.

Purchase of the Manor Shamrock Estate, County Fermanagh.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that three and a half years ago an agreement was made for sale to the tenants on the Manor Shamrock estate, county Fermanagh; that the Estates Commissioners have been collecting from the tenants interest on the purchase money at the rate of 3½ per cent. which they pay over to the agent of the estate, and by him distributed among the owners, thus entailing on them the cost of collection, besides the owners losing all interest on the bonus of 12 per cent. to which they are entitled on the purchase money; and whether, in view of these facts, he can state the cause of delay on the part of the Estates

Commissioners in advancing the purchase money.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are unable, from the particulars given, to identify the estate in question as one in regard to which proceedings are pending before them. If the name and address of the owner should be furnished to them they would have further search made.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mrs. Mary O'Dea.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the inspector of the Estates Commissioners has inquired into the case of Mrs. Mary O'Dea, of Farbert Island, who was evicted from her holding at Glin, in the county of Limerick, in the year 1899; and, if so, what action do the Commissioners propose to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have fully inquired into Mrs. O'Dea's application and have decided to take no action upon it. The applicant's late husband was not an evicted tenant. He occupied the holding in question under a temporary letting by the Land Judge, and when the property was sold he was afforded an opportunity of purchasing the holding, but failed to take advantage of it. The holding has since been sold under the Land Acts to the present occupiers.

Re instatement of the Ely Evicted Tenants.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the inspector was sent down last January to report with reference to the Ely evicted tenants; and whether anything has since been done to put those tenants back in their homes.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have had an inspection made of the untenanted lands on the Ely estate, but have not yet found it practicable to adopt a scheme for the distribution of the lands, and in the circumstances the Commissioners advised the agent of the estate to let the land for the present season in orde to avoid loss. The evicted tenants an others to whom it may eventually b decided to allot holdings will receive du notice of the fact.

Arrears of Rent on the Faithley Estate

MR. FFRENCH: To ask the Chie Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant o Ireland whether he is aware that th agent on the Faithley estate, South Wexford, is using the arrears of rent t deter tenants from entering the Lan Court; whether he is aware that, in th case of a tenant named P. Bowe, wh served an originating notice and who owe only £11 arrears, the agent has threatene proceedings for the recovery of £150 and whether he can, by legislation o otherwise, do anything to protect tenant in the exercise of their legal rights.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Lan Commission are unable to identify th case of P. Bowe as one which has com before them. The mere fact that arrea of rent are due does not preclude tenant from applying to have a fair re fixed by the Court.

Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891—Th Treasury and Section 2.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary t the Treasury how long it is since th attention of the Treasury has bee directed to Section 2 of The Purchase o Land (Ireland) Act, 1891; and ho soon does he expect that the consultation of the Treasury with the other Departments interested will result in the formulation of rules or regulations to enable th section to be made available by thos for whose benefit it was intended.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) Th hon. Member called attention to thi matter by his Question on 22nd April The Treasury shortly afterwards addressed communications to the othe Departments concerned, but have no yet received all the information necessar for a decision.

Destroyers Available for Service.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): To ask the Secretar to the Admiralty how many destroyer were in Home waters on the 1st June and how many of these would have been actually ready for sea at twenty-four hours notice on that date.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I must refer the right hon. Gentleman to my reply of yesterday to the hon. Member for the Andover Division of Hants.†

French Owners of Merchant Ships Flying British Flag.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has any information as to the amount of shipping registered in the United Kingdom and flying the British flag which is owned and controlled by foreign capital.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have no definite information on the subject to which the hon. Member refers. It is, of course, well known that a considerable amount of tonnage under the British flag is controlled by foreign capital, and also that a considerable amount of tonnage under foreign flags is controlled by British capital.

Value of British Goods Imported under Preferential Tariffs into Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom into Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa in a recent year which are not subject to import duties under the tariffs at present in force, but which would have been dutiable if imported from a foreign country.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George*). The value of the imports into Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa from the United Kingdom of articles which, under the tariffs at present in force, are not subject to duty, but are dutiable if imported from a foreign country, in the latest years for which the information is available in each case were as follows:—

	£
Canada (year ended 30th June, 1906) - - - - -	241,000
New Zealand (1905) - -	449,000
South Africa Customs Union (1906) - - - -	3,655,000

The existing Canadian tariff did not come into operation until November last, but the figures given represent the value of the imports which would not have been dutiable if that tariff had been in force during the year 1905–6.

Repayment to District Councils of Half Salaries of Sanitary Officers.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state how many of the 670 rural district councils of England and Wales have, during the last financial year, received from the local taxation account through their county councils one-half of the salaries of their inspectors of nuisances and medical officers of health.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I cannot state the number of cases in which during the last financial year, county councils actually repaid to rural district councils half the salaries of their sanitary officers; but on the 31st March last the number of cases in rural districts in which the officers were acting under conditions entitling the councils of these districts to such repayment was, as regards inspectors of nuisances, 614, and, as regards medical officers of health, 635.

Committee on Municipal Accounts—Publication of Report.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Departmental Committee on Municipal Accounts have finished their investigations; and when their Report is likely to be published.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I understand that the Committee have nearly completed their labours, and that they hope to be able to send in their complete Report in the course of the next few weeks.

Loans to Local Authorities for Erection of Schools—Extension of Time for Repayment.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of meeting the wishes of local authorities desiring an extension of the period for the repayment of loans when the money borrowed is to be, or has been, expended upon the erection of schools, which are obviously intended to last for more than thirty years.

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† See page 1215.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The general practice of the Local Government Board has been to allow a period not exceeding thirty years for the repayment of loans for buildings. I have had occasion to consider the matter, and it does not appear to me that there is any sufficient reason for allowing a longer period in the case of schools.

Record of Evidence in Criminal Cases.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will issue a circular to recorders and chairmen and deputy-chairmen of quarter sessions, as well as to clerks of the peace, pointing out the desirability of a permanent record of the evidence being made and preserved in all criminal trials, and recommending them at once to make the necessary provision; and whether, if there be an objection to make this recommendation to unpaid chairmen of quarter sessions, he will do so to recorders and others holding office under the Crown upon the nomination of the Secretary of State.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) As the notes taken by chairmen of quarter sessions and recorders are sufficient for their own purposes, I cannot ask them to bear the very considerable expense of having the evidence taken down in shorthand, and at present the law makes no provision for defraying such expenditure from public funds. As I have already said, the matter will be set right by the Criminal Appeal Bill.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Colonies and Naval Defence.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the naval contributions of Cape Colony and Natal, amounting to £85,000 a year, are to be spent on the purposes of purely local defence in South Africa; and whether the Colonies in question propose to make any contribution towards the general expenses of th British Navy, which guarantees them against foreign invasion.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON Dundee): I am afraid I cannot give my hon. friend any information beyond that which he will find in the Report of the Conference (Cd. 3523), page 479–480 The Admiralty are awaiting the forma communication from the Colonial Governments which may be expected as the result of the discussion.

Messrs. Kynoch's Contract.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the rule under which the Admiralty awarded such large contract to Kynoch, Limited, was the one unde which the lowest tender secured th contract; and whether he can state i Kynoch, Limited, have been struck o the list of Admiralty contractors.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: is not usual, nor is it considere desirable, that information as to price should be made public. As the whole question of mercuric chloride is unde consideration it is premature to mak any statement on this subject.

Civil Training for Soldiers.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State fo War whether the statements sent to hi Department by commanding officers respecting the proposed training of soldier for employment in civil life contain complaints against trade unions, and will be issued as a Parliamentary document whether he can state the extent to which officers have attempted to carry out the suggestions made to them on this subject and whether he can take steps to provide that ex-soldiers shall not be used fo forms of civil employment at less than the recognised rates and conditions established by the various workmen's organisations.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN Perth, E.): In accordance with the promise given in another place on May

29th,† a Paper will very shortly be laid on the Table of the House containing a Report on the steps being taken to provide technical instruction to soldiers. These Papers will give the information asked for in the former part of the Question. As regards the latter part of the Question, the employment of soldiers after their return to civil life is subject to the ordinary conditions of labour over which the War Office has no control.

Volunteer Decorations.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he proposes to make any, and, if so, what, provisions in the case of members of the existing Volunteer forces with many years service, who, being unable to comply with the terms of enlistment in the proposed Territorial Army, or who may be ineligible for such enlistment under any new conditions about to be imposed, are thereby, and without any fault of their own, deprived of the opportunity hitherto held out to them of obtaining in the case of officers the long service decoration, and in the case of men a long service medal.

MR. BUCHANAN: This matter is not being lost sight of and, while I am not at present in a position to make any definite statement on the subject, I can assure the noble Lord that every consideration will be shown to the cases to which he refers.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH: When may an Answer be expected?

MR. BUCHANAN: I cannot give a definite day.

Army Rations.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War why, in view of the fact that most of the tinned meat for the Navy is bought from Australia and New Zealand, it is found necessary to buy most of the tinned meat for the Army from the United States of America.

MR. BUCHANAN: The contracts for the supply of tinned meat for the Army are placed after competition without regard to the country of origin. But in order to extend, if possible, the area of supply an officer has been sent out by the War Office to Australia, New Zealand, and South America, as to the capacity of establishments in these countries entering into the field of competition to supply our needs.

MR. HUNT: May I ask why British sailors are fed on good British meat while the soldier has the doubtful product of the Chicago stockyard?

MR. BUCHANAN: I cannot answer for the Navy.

Cadet Corps.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any moneys voted for Volunteer purposes have been or will be paid over to public schools for the support of cadet corps or instruction of cadets in shooting.

MR. BUCHANAN: No moneys voted for Volunteer purposes have been or will be paid over to public schools for the support of cadet corps or instruction of cadets in shooting.

Transvaal Loan.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on what date it is expected that the Transvaal Loan Bill will be discussed in the Transvaal Parliament.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I do not yet know the date.

SIR F. BANBURY: I presume it will not be introduced into this House until the Bill has been debated in the Transvaal Parliament?

MR. CHURCHILL: Of course not. It cannot be introduced into this House until it has been passed by the Transvaal Legislature.

Transvaal Prisons.

MR. HAROLD COX): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Return prepared by the Transvaal showing the number of persons of different nationalities confined in Transvaal prisons on 30th June, 1906, states for what offence the prisoners had been sentenced; and, if so, whether he can state what proportion of the total number of British Indians in prison had been sentenced under the Peace Preservation Act for attempting to enter the Colony in order to carry on trade there.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 1064.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Return does not give the particulars for which the hon. Member asks, and I have no information as to the number of British Indians imprisoned for contravention of the Peace Preservation Ordinance, but I will inquire.

Wick Bay Fisheries.

MR. R. L. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that on the 7th March last the skipper of the "Endeavour" (W.K. 621) reported to the fishery officer at Wick that, whilst five miles S.E. by S. off Wick Bay, their nets came foul of the dan of the Norwegian trawler "Campania," causing the loss of six nets of the "Endeavour"; whether, in anchoring her dan on ground where fishing was going on, the "Campania" violated Article 17 of the North Sea Fisheries Convention of 1882; and whether he proposes to make representations to the Norwegian Government with the view of securing redress for the fishermen for the loss of their nets.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): No, Sir; we have no information on the subject. Norway is not a party to the North Sea Fisheries Convention; but if the hon. Member will supply full particulars of the complaint, my right hon. friend will be happy to consider the matter.

Municipal Borrowings in Foreign Countries.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will grant a Return showing the limits placed on municipal borrowing in the different States of the United States, and also in Germany and France and Italy, if any legal limit exists.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend is advised that the information would not be of sufficient utility to justify its being procured officially and presented to Parliament.

Income-Tax Forms.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that forms requiring a return of income for 1908 are now being sent out in Scotland by the assessors of taxes by virtue of the powers under Section 30 of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1890; and whether, in the event of the proposals in the Finance Bill with regard to differentiation becoming law, a second set of forms will have to be sent out and returned.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Yes, Sir. The usual forms are now being sent out and supplementary forms will have to be issued, if and when legislative effect is given to the new proposals. It would not be practicable to hang up the whole machinery pending the passing of the Finance Bill.

Messrs. Kynoch's Contracts.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if, in January, 1905, the Home Office inspectors refused to sanction the manufacture of an explosive now know as Abbcite, at Arklow, Ireland, whilst at the same time giving permission for its manufacture at Kynochton, Essex; if so, will he state what justification the inspectors had for their preference; and can he state on what day was the policy of discrimination in favour of Essex abandoned by the Home Office.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): This explosive was tested at Woolwich on the 30th December, 1904, and six days later, on 5th January, 1905, a definition of the explosive was sent to Messrs. Kynoch containing conditions that it should be manufactured at the Kynochton factory, because that was the factory at which the sample was made which was actually tested. Six days later, on 11th January, 1905, the firm requested that the definition might be amended so as to permit manufacture at Arklow. His Majesty's inspector thereupon requested the firm to submit a sample of this explosive which had been manufactured at Arklow, in order that they might be satisfied that the manufacture of it was fully understood there. Four days after that, on 16th January, the firm sent in an explanation upon which the Department yielded to their request, and on the 17th they were informed that the definition of the explosive would be so amended as to permit the manufacture at Arklow without any further tests. The consequent formal application to be allowed to manufacture was made by the firm seventeen days later, on 3rd February, 1905. On 9th February a draft amending licence was sent for their observations and was returned by them on the 17th. The licence was signed and sent to the firm on 3rd March, 1905. On 11th February I made an Order putting this explosive, whether made at Arklow or at Kynochton, on the list of explosives permitted to be used in fiery or dusty mines. It will be seen, therefore, that the action of my Department caused no delay whatever in the production of the explosives at Arklow.

Fish-curing Industry.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he proposes to institute any proceedings against firms engaged in the fish-curing trade, in respect to violations of Section 41 of the Factory Act, pending inquiries on the operation of this section; whether he can state how long the inquiry will last before a Report is presented; and whether the Report will be laid upon the Table before the Home Office takes any action in consequence of the inquiry.

MR. GLADSTONE: So far as Section 41 is concerned, the inquiry will be confined to the one or two points on which the difficulties referred to in my previous Answer have arisen; as regards any violations of the section that may be reported outside those points, proceedings will, of course, be taken in proper cases. The inquiry will be made during the present season, but I cannot say exactly how long it will take, or when I shall receive the Report of the chief inspector. I will lay the Report on the Table of the House. Any alteration of the terms of Section 41 would, of course, require legislation.

Railway Companies and Subscriptions.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has yet arranged for a heading in the published accounts of railway companies, which will show what subscriptions have been paid by the directors out of the corporate funds.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am proposing, under the powers given by Section 32 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, to call upon the railway companies to include in the returns forwarded to the Board of Trade under the Railways Regulation Act, 1871, a statement showing in detail the subscriptions or donations to institutions or associations not under the direct control of the companies, and not for the exclusive benefit of the companies' servants.

Manufactured Goods.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what are the principal differences in the character of the articles included under the term of manufactures in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the United States, respectively; to what extent these differences vitiate the comparison of the exports of manufactures from those countries; and what would be the value of the exports of manufactures from the three foreign countries mentioned in a recent year if the classification were uniform, and the same as that of the United Kingdom.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In both the French and German trade statistics certain articles were excluded from the category of manufactures which are classed as such in this country, the principal of these articles being metals and certain semi-manufactured metal goods, combed and carded wool, and certain building materials; whilst in France thrown silk and oilcake are also excluded, and in Germany crude chemicals. On the other hand, oils are classed in this country as raw materials, and in Germany as manufactures. In the United States, tobacco, which is grouped with articles of food and drink in this country, and timber and lumber, mineral oils and coke, which are classed as raw materials in this country, are classed as manufactured articles. Making allowance for these and other minor differences, it appears that if the classification adopted in this country were adopted in the countries named, the exports in 1905 (the last year for which the figures are available) of manufactures from France would have been, roughly, £126,000,000 sterling instead of £110,000,000 sterling; from Germany £214,000,000 sterling, instead of £191,000,000 sterling; and from the United States £101,000,000 sterling, instead of £127,000,000 sterling. The exports of manufactures from the United Kingdom in 1905 were £273,000,000.

Caithness Mail Service.

MR. R. L. HARMSWORTH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state whether the contract for the conveyance of the mails between Wick and Lybster, in the county of Caithness, has been re-let to the present contractor at an increased sum; and if he will explain why the mails should not be more expeditiously conveyed by rail instead of by road as at present.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The contract for the mail service by road between Wick and Helmsdale recently expired; and, although the service was advertised, the railway company were not prepared to submit a tender within the time laid down. As the matter was urgent, it was necessary to accept a tender from the former contractor, at a higher rate, for a service by road; but a separate contract has been made for the Wick and Lybster section in order that, if at any time the railway company made a satisfactory offer, that part of the service could be transferred to them. I am now in communication with the company on the subject.

Secondary Schools.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he intends to submit and cause to be printed and circulated his proposals with reference to secondary schools; and when the revised Code will be printed and circulated.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I hope both these sets of regulations will be presented next week or the week after.

Alness River Salmon Fishery.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what partof the Alness River, Ross-shire, *ex adverso* a part of the Coul estate, is let for salmon fishings by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to Mr. S. C. Munro for a term of ten years from Martinmas 1900 at a rental of £6 per annum.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The part of the river included in the letting to Mr. Munro extends up stream on the right or west bank for rather more than half a mile from a point rather less than half a mile above Alness Bridge.

Irish Fish Brand.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture (Ireland) whether, seeing that there has now been published the evidence taken at various public meetings in Ireland, held to inquire into the adoption of a brand for Irish-cured fish, he will state when the official Report on the subject will be issued; whether he is aware that the estimated value of herrings presented in Scotland for the Crown brand last year amounted to £493,622, being an increase of £14,517 on that of 1905, although the actual number of barrels branded was considerably less; whether his attention has been called to the Report of the inspector sent to Stettin, Libau, and other continental ports, and in particular to his statement, at page 298 of the Report, that more Crown-branded herrings had been sent to Russia, because the brand was considered as affording a better guarantee than could be obtained in the case of unbranded herrings; and whether these facts will be taken into account in drawing up the Report on the demand put forward for a brand for Irish-cured fish.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): My hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question for him. The Report referred to is in the hands of the printer, and will, it is hoped, be ready for issue in a week or ten days. The figures given in the Question are those published in the last Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, and are, I believe, correct. It is also stated in the same Report that the proportion of barrels which received the highest brand as compared with those of the lower grades was greater in 1906 than in the previous year, and partly in consequence of this the total money value was greater, although the actual number of barrels branded was less. The Department have considered the interesting Report of the Assistant Inspector of the Scottish Fishery Board referred to, and in the preparation of their inspector's Report on the question of a brand for fish in Ireland account has been taken of the facts that the demand for the Crown brand in Scotland is declining, and that Irish-cured herrings without a Government brand obtained nearly double the price of the highest grade of Scottish Crown-branded herrings in the markets of Germany and of Russia.

Prosecutions for Unlawful Assembly.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the Crown will take any further action in the case of a charge of unlawful assembly preferred against certain persons at the last Castlereagh Petty Sessions, on the hearing of which the Bench refused to grant an adjournment to enable the Crown solicitor—whose absence appeared to be due to the action of those engaged for the defence—to be present, proceeded with the hearing of the charge in the absence of this official, and refused, notwithstanding the clear *prima facie* case made out by the prosecution, to take information and return the accused for trial; and whether, having authorised the prosecution, he intends to send up a Bill to the grand jury at the forthcoming assizes.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg also to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the observations of Mr. Heverin, solicitor, on Thursday last, in court, at Ballintubber, county Roscommon, when he stated that the people of Roscommon were not lawless, although they had been described as such by carrion crows, and that they had it on the authority of Lord Denman, a member of the Government, that cattle driving was not a serious offence, and that thereupon the accused were acquitted; what action, if any, he proposes to take; and will he send up a Bill to the grand jury at the forthcoming Roscommon Assizes.

MR. CHERRY: I can answer this and the following Question together. The facts are that summonses were issued against certain persons charging them with unlawful assembly, as stated in the Questions. These summonses would in ordinary course have come on for hearing at the last Ballintubber Petty Sessions, held on Thursday last, the 6th instant, and the Crown solicitor was prepared to attend, and had made arrangements for all the Crown witnesses to do so. On Wednesday morning, however, Mr. Heverin, solicitor for the accused parties, telegraphed to him asking him to consent to an adjournment to the next petty sessions. To this request the Crown solicitor, acting under instructions from the Government, consented. The district inspector in charge of the case was then at once informed of the adjournment which had been agreed upon, and told that he need not have the principal witnesses for the Crown in attendance. Late on that evening the solicitor for the accused telegraphed withdrawing his request for an adjournment, but it was then too late to alter the arrangements which had been made. On the following day an application for an adjournment was made by the district inspector. The solicitor for the accused persons opposed this application, although he had himself asked the Crown to consent to it on the morning before. The magistrates refused the application for an adjournment, and the case was heard in the absence of the Crown solicitor and of the principal Crown witnesses. In these circumstances the magistrates refused to receive information. The evidence in the case has since been submitted to me, and I have directed that a bill against the defendants shall be sent up to the grand jury at the next assizes, as I do not think that the decision of the magistrates under the circumstances can be accepted as conclusive. I have no information as to the observations which may have been made by the solicitor for the defendants.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake that either he or the Solicitor-General will prosecute in one of these cases so as to show that the Government are firm in their determination to suppress these raids?

MR. CHERRY: I will consider that.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in cases where justices, for improper motives or owing to intimidation, refuse information in clear cases of unlawful assembly, it is his intention to exercise his power of sending up bills of indictment to grand juries against the offenders; and whether he has in any case hitherto exercised this power.

MR. CHERRY: I have no means of ascertaining the motives which actuate justices in their decisions, nor am I aware that they have been subjected to intimidation in any case. In deciding whether or not I shall send up bills of indictment to grand juries where justices have refused informations I am guided entirely by the evidence available, and not by any speculations as to the motives which actuated the justices.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Surely the right hon. Gentleman does not intend to send these cases direct to the Court of Appeal?

MR. CHERRY: Certainly not. The proper tribunal is a Judge and jury.

Labourers (Ireland) Act Loans.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can say when he intends to introduce the measure amending the Public Works Loans Act to enable the district councils in Ireland that borrowed money to put the Labourers (Ireland) Act in force previous to the passing of the Act of 1906, to pay back the amount of the outstanding loans on the same terms as acquired by the district councils in Ireland under the 1906 Act.

MR. ASQUITH: I hope to be able to introduce a clause dealing with this matter in the Public Works Loans Bill of this year.

Irish Lists of Voters and Jurors.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Local Government Board auditors find that the work connected with the preparation of lists of voters and jurors is more expensive and less efficiently performed by county officers than it was, prior to 1899, by union officers; is he aware that complaints on this subject are numerous, and that many boards of guardians and district councils have adopted resolutions calling for the repeal of Section 83 (7) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898; and whether he will give favourable consideration to this suggestion.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The auditors of the Local Government Board have not made any representation to the effect suggested in the first part of the Question. In the opinion of the Board there are no grounds for supposing that the work is less efficiently performed by county officers, though no doubt there has been some increase in the cost owing to the increase in the work caused by the preparation of the list of local government electors. Some resolutions to the effect mentioned have been received, but there does not appear to be any sufficient reason for repealing the provision referred to. The persons who are in the best position to prepare the voters' and jurors' lists are the officials who prepare the rate-books, namely, the county secretaries.

Irish Poor Law Commission Report.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received from local authorities in Ireland resolutions approving of some of the recommendations of the Irish Poor Law Commission; and whether, in view of the unanimity of those resolutions on the points with which they deal, he can promise legislation next session on this subject.

MR. BIRRELL: Resolutions to the effect mentioned have been received. As to the possibility of legislation, I would refer to my Answer to the Question put by the hon. Member for South Sligo on 6th May.†

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiii., 1314.

Labourers (Ireland) Act.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board for Ireland have appointed any additional inspectors in connection with the working of the Labourers Acts; if so, what qualifications do they require; was the fitness of each ascertained by competitive examination; were clerks and assistant clerks of rural district councils, having practical knowledge of the working of the Acts, afforded an opportunity of competing for these appointments; if not, can he say why; and will they be afforded such opportunity in future.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have appointed three additional inspectors for duty in connection with the Labourers Acts. No competitive examination was held. As to the remainder of the Question, I would refer to the Answer which I gave to the similar Question put by the hon. Member for North Leitrim on 17th April.†

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say who are the additional inspectors?

MR. BIRRELL: I have not got the names.

MR. GINNELL: How were they appointed—on whose recommendation?

MR. BIRRELL: The appointments were open to any person who chose to apply and the Commissioners examined the applications, made selections from them, and submitted the names.

Bann and Lough Neagh Drainage.

*MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the total cost, for salary and travelling expenses respectively, of Mr. J. D. Bell, while engaged in the inspection and valuing of the Bann and Lough Neagh drainage district; and what is the total amount of money given as a free grant for the drainage of the Bann.

MR. BIRRELL: The cost referred to in the first part of the Question has not yet been fully ascertained. No free grant has been given for the drainage of the Bann; the matter has not yet been determined.

*MR. MEEHAN: Was not £139,000 advanced for the drainage of the Bann, and not a shilling can be got to relieve the people in the valley of the Barrow?

MR. BIRRELL: There has been a fresh Report, and the whole question must be reconsidered.

MR. MOONEY: Have there not been three separate sums for travelling expenses this year at the rate of £45 per month?

MR. BIRRELL: I cannot say.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Has not the £139,000 advanced for the drainage of the Bann been long since repaid to the Treasury?

MR. BIRRELL: I should like notice of that.

Drainage of the Barrow.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the Report of the county surveyor of Queen's County, stating that, during the month of September last, serious injury was caused by floods from the Barrow to the road and a portion of the embankment above Tinnahinch Bridge, and suggesting that, with a view to avoiding the danger of damage in this locality caused by floods, the river course, which has silted up below the bridge, should be cleared and widened for some distance down the stream, and stating that, by the advice of the Local Government Board, the question was brought under the notice of the Arterial Drainage Commission; whether he is aware that the county council have no authority to provide a remedy; and will he say what steps he purposes to take in the matter.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received copies of resolutions adopted at a public meeting held at Portarlington on 30th May, 1907, for the purpose of promoting the drainage of the

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxii., 941.

River Barrow; whether he is aware that the Arterial Drainage Commissioners, in their Report dated 23rd February, 1907, stated, in reference to this river, that the basin of the Upper Barrow suffered more from floods than any other part of Ireland, and that the condition of the district might be described as deplorable, and that the case of this river differed from others in Ireland once similarly circumstanced, in that no expenditure by the State had ever taken place, although the task of clearing the main outfall was manifestly far beyond the reach of private enterprise; and whether he proposes to take any steps to provide a scheme of drainage for the flooded area of the River Barrow.

MR. BIRRELL: I will answer these two Questions together. My predecessor received from the hon. Member the Report of the county surveyor referred to, and subsequently made a communication to the hon. Member on the subject. I have received the resolutions passed at the meeting held at Portarlington. The observations of the Arterial Drainage Commission as to the River Barrow are correctly quoted in the Question. I have already informed the hon. Member that before deciding upon legislation in respect of arterial drainage it will be necessary to consider the recommendations of the Commission as a whole. This will obviously take a considerable time, and meanwhile it would not be practicable to consider the question of undertaking a drainage scheme for the Barrow, or any other particular river.

*MR. MEEHAN asked if there were not four towns in this flooded area with a total population of 11,000, without any suitable drainage or water supply, or the possibility of providing either, and could no remedy be applied to safeguard the property and lives of the people.

MR. BIRRELL: We really must consider the question as a whole.

MR. FLYNN: Has not the right hon. Gentleman realised that if Ireland had a system of Home Rule these things would have been remedied long since?

MR. BIRRELL: I think that is most likely.

MR. J. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): In view of the dropping of the Irish Council Bill will the right hon. Gentleman introduce a drainage Bill for Ireland?

*MR. MEEHAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that during his term of office any effort will be made to provide a remedy for an evil admitted to exist for half a century, which is increasing every year and which is ruining the health of the people and is a daily menace to their lives and property.

MR. BIRRELL: I can give no assurance.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): No, you only drain Ireland of public money.

Irish Police Distribution.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what is the number of constabulary stations throughout the whole of Ireland from which men have been withdrawn to the extent, respectively, of one, two, and three men, and upwards, for the purpose of augmenting the ordinary police establishment of districts which are at present in a state of disturbance.

MR. BIRRELL: I beg to refer to my Answer to the similar Question of the right hon. Member for South Dublin on 30th May.† The figures which I then gave apply to the whole of Ireland, and there has since been no change.

Imprisonment in Default of Sureties for Good Behaviour.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of persons who were called upon, during the twelve months ended 31st May, 1907, to enter into sureties to be of good behaviour under the Act of Edward III., or to be of good behaviour and to keep the peace under the combined authorities of that Act and the Magistrates Commission, in cases arising out of boycotting, intimidation, and other offences connected with the agrarian movement in Ireland; how many such persons gave the requisite sureties; and how many were committed to prison in default.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 49.

Mr. BIRRELL: During the twelve months ending 31st May last, summonses were issued against eighty-seven persons, requiring them to show cause why they should not be required to find sureties for the peace or good behaviour, in connection with cases of the nature referred to in the Question. In forty-nine of these cases the magistrates made the order applied for, and in thirty-eight cases they declined to do so. Of the forty-nine persons required to find sureties, twenty-four did so, and the remaining twenty-five refused and were committed to gaol.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL asked if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that Chief Baron Palles in giving judgment in Dr. Tanner's case regretted that the power of sending to gaol, in default of giving sureties, men who had committed no offence was exercised, stating that it was an anomaly in the law, and also if he was aware that the present Attorney-General for England had characterised the exercise of such a power by Irish resident magistrates as an unjustifiable abuse of power.

Mr. MOORE: On a point of order, may I ask if an hon. Member is entitled to put a question of this nature on the Paper without first submitting it to you, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: It happens that this Question was submitted to me.

Mr. BIRRELL: I am acquainted with the observations of Chief Baron Palles, but I have not had the advantage of reading those of the Attorney-General.

Mansfield Estate, county Donegal.

Mr. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what is the cause of the delay in completing the sale to the tenants on the Mansfield estate, near Killygordon, county Donegal, who signed agreements to purchase their holdings two years ago, and are still paying the old rent to the receiver without reducing the period of their instalments payable to the Estates Commissioners; and will he say when the sale will be completed.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that there has been no undue delay in dealing with this estate, the purchase agreements in respect of which were lodged in July, 1905. The advances applied for have recently been sanctioned, and the sale will now be completed as soon as possible.

Thomastown Grazing Farm Dispute.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in reference to the cattle drive which took place on the estate of Mr. Valentine Ryan at Thomastown, near Birr, King's County, on 27th May, the authorities were aware that the holders of the grass farms, John Gill, James Grennan, and Michael Hackett, had been written to by the Killyon Branch of the United Irish League to surrender these lands; if so, why adequate means were not adopted to prevent the forcible removal of the stock; and whether, seeing that the stock on these lands have been replaced, he will see that sufficient protection is afforded to prevent a repetition of the outrage.

Mr. BIRRELL: The police authorities were aware that the three men named, as well as some twenty others in the district, had received letters requesting them to surrender their farms. These letters purported to come from the local branch of the United Irish League. My Answer to the hon. Member's succeeding Question deals with the matter of protecting grazing farms generally. In this particular case it was impossible to keep a large force of police stationed on every farm.

Cattle Driving in East Galway.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the cattle-driving conspiracy has extended to East Galway, and that holders of grass lands on the estate of Sir Henry Burke have been forced to surrender to the pressure of the United Irish League; and whether he has any official information showing that this is due to inadequate police protection.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that several cases of driving cattle off grazing farms have occurred in East Galway, and that with one exception the holders of grass farms on Sir Henry Burke's estate have surrendered the farms. These persons have refused to make any statement to the police as to their reason for surrendering the farms, and the police have no evidence that such surrender was due to pressure from the United Irish League. The police authorities have afforded all possible protection to the holders of grazing farms, and have in many cases succeeded in preventing cattle drives. It must be understood that police effort is but an adjunct to the primary duty of an owner to provide for the safety of his property. The Inspector-General informs me that hitherto the owners of cattle have done practically nothing to protect the farms. The police will continue to afford all the protection within their power, but it is obviously impossible to place a large force of police on every one of the numerous grazing farms in the country.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG asked the right hon. Gentleman if he would inform the House what the Inspector-General of Police expected each individual owner of farms of this kind to do to protect his property.

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir, but I think the Inspector-General is perfectly justified in pointing out that it is the duty of the people in Ireland or elsewhere to take the ordinary steps to protect their own property.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: This is a most important matter. May I ask the right hon. Gentleman to indicate what protective measures he would expect them to take. Does he expect them to build a wall ten or twelve feet high?

MR. BIRRELL: To take the ordinary steps which owners of property take everywhere else.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not a fact that a considerable portion of this property is scheduled as a congested area, and whether Sir Henry Burke has not demanded twenty-six-and-a-quarter years purchase from the tenants in that scheduled area? And is not tha really the cause of the whole trouble?

MR. LONSDALE: Will the righ hon. Gentleman state what are th ordinary steps which landlords are t take to protect their property?

[No Answer was returned.]

MR PIKE PEASE: In view of th importance of this Question, may ask the right hon. Gentleman whethe in the opinion of the Irish Office, thi is a serious crime in itself?

[No Answer was returned.]

MR. KILBRIDE: Is not the mai reason for these people surrending thei grass farms due to the statements mad repeatedly in 1903 from the then Government Bench that one of the objects the Land Act of that year was th redistribution of the grazing ranches?

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): desire to ask very seriously what th Chief Secretary for Ireland really mea by using this phrase—and a very remarkable phrase I think it is—[Orde order.]

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Membe has any further Question, will he put down? He is not entitled to interpola these observations.

Judge Wakeley on the Condition of County Roscommon.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask th Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenan of Ireland whether his attention ha been called to the remark of Judg Wakeley, at Boyle quarter sessions o 5th June, that the present condition county Roscommon was deplorable an not what one would expect to find in civilised country; and what means h intends to take to re-establish peace an tranquility in this disturbed area.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: May I at the sam time ask the Chief Secretary to the Lor Lieutenant of Ireland whether his atten tion has been called to the statement His Honour Judge Wakeley, at Boy quarter sessions, on the 4th June las that the present condition of the count of Roscommon was deplorable, and n what one would expect to find in a civilised country; what action, if any, the Government intend to take; and if this county is now in a peaceful condition.

MR. BIRRELL: I have read a newspaper report of the learned Judge's remarks which seem to have had reference to cases of driving cattle off grazing farms in county Roscommon. In all such cases, in which evidence has been forthcoming, the ringleaders have been prosecuted. The police force of the county has been strengthened by the addition of 135 men, and is now regarded as adequate. This Answer applies to the Question of the hon. Member for East Down.

MR. MOORE: In how many cases have there been prosecutions of ringleaders?

MR. BIRRELL: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Ballina Gaelic League Demonstration.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that at a Gaelic League demonstration at Ballina, on Sunday, 2nd June, Mr. P. O'Donellan said the Irish people were not in a position to face England on the field of battle, but while they were waiting for that not far distant date they should boycott everything English, from the Lord-Lieutenant down to the meanest menial and spy in his service; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: My attention has only now been called to a newspaper report of the speech referred to. The Question does not seem to me to convey a correct impression of the tenor of the speech. Its general purport is contained in an extract which I will venture to read—"Last year the Irish people spent over £13,000,000 on drink, and out of the duty collected on the drink bill principally the English Government was paying her officials, from the Lord-Lieutenant down to the meanest menial, and to the spy in her service. Why should they not reduce the drink bill by one half, because it would not be too much to ask any man taking two bottles of stout in the day to reduce it to one, not for the sake of any man, but for the sake of Ireland? Were they going to continue to spend £25,000,000 on foreign manufactures while they were begging from Sir Henry Robinson and others for grants for unions? In concluding an eloquent speech Mr. O'Donellan asked the people to become temperate and self-reliant until they realised their fondest aspirations."

MR. LONSDALE: Does the right hon. Gentleman deny that Mr. P. O'Donellan said the Irish people were not in a position to face England on the field of battle, but while they were waiting for that not far distant date they should boycott everything English, from the Lord-Lieutenant down to the meanest menial and spy in his service?

MR. J. DEVLIN: Was any reference made in that speech to English margarine?

MR. LONSDALE: I must press for an Answer to my very distinct Question.

MR. BIRRELL: The extract I have read is, I think, an answer.

MR. KILBRIDE: How much of the £13,000,000 referred to in the speech was spent in Belfast?

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that at a Gaelic League demonstration at Ballina on Sunday, 2nd June, at which speeches in favour of boycotting were made, a recitation was given by a national school teacher; and whether it is in accordance with the rules of the National Commissioners of Education that teachers should take part in such political demonstrations.

MR. BIRRELL: The attendance of national school teachers at meetings held for political purposes is prohibited by the rules of the Commissioners of National Education, but I have no information as to whether the meeting referred to in the Question was a political meeting. The Commissioners, however, inform me that they are at present investigating the case.

MR. J. DEVLIN: May I ask if the right hon. Gentleman is aware that Mr. Thomson, a teacher, recently made a political speech at a Unionist demonstration in Belfast presided over by Lord Londonderry ?

*Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member must really give notice of these Questions. It is impossible for the Chief Secretary for Ireland to carry all these speeches in his mind.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.) : Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Gaelic League is strictly non-political ?

Mr. BIRRELL : I have always been told so.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) : May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if it is not the fact that the National Commissioners of Education in Ireland suspended, *pro tem.*, while the Irish Council Bill was under consideration, the rule with regard to school teachers taking part in meetings ?

Mr. BIRRELL : I must ask for notice of that Question.

Mr. J. DEVLIN : Did not the right hon. Gentleman promise in this House that school teachers should enjoy in this matter the same rights and privileges as all other citizens ?

Mr. BIRRELL : Yes, Sir, I did. And I also did my best to induce the National Commissioners to alter the rule.

Mr. MOORE : Was not Mr. Thomson allowed to attend this meeting under a special licence from Dr. Starkey ?

Mr. BIRRELL : I am not aware.

Mr. J. DEVLIN : May I ask if it is necessary for an Irish National teacher to get specific leave to address a Unionist demonstration, and will all teachers in Ireland be allowed the same right and privilege as Mr. Thomson ?

Mr. BIRRELL : Under the rule a teacher is not entitled to address political meetings, and so long as the rule stands the teachers must submit to it.

Mr. SLOAN : May I further ask——

*Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order ! A large number of supplementary Questions have already been asked, and it is onl fair to other hon. Members who hav Questions on the Paper that this shoul cease. If hon. Members desire to pu further Questions they must put them o the Paper.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) : Havin regard to the fact that teachers ar allowed to attend meetings in Englan will the right hon. Gentleman——

*Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order ! Th hon. Member must give notice of tha Question in the usual way.

King's County Evicted Tenants.

Sir WALTER NUGENT (Westmeath S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary t the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he i aware that the Estates Commissioner for Ireland have signified their intention o transplanting evicted tenants from King County to the lands of Raheenshan Cloncullen, and Spitteltown, situate near Tyrrellspass, in the county of Westmeath, notwithstanding the fact tha there are evicted tenants in the immediat neighbourhood, one of whom was evicte from one of the farms in question ; an if he will instruct the Commissioners n to make such a transfer, but to reinstat the local evicted tenants on the land in question.

Mr. BIRRELL : The Estates Commissions are negotiating for the purchas of the estate of R. White, which i situate in the townlands mentioned in the Question, but will not settle a schem for the distribution of the lands until th negotiations are complete. If the Commissioners should succeed in acquiring the property, they will consider the claims of local evicted tenants.

Farrigans (Donegal) Evicted Tenant.

Mr. C. MACVEIGH : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the case of Mrs. Mary M'Cool, widow of John M'Cool, who was evicted from his farm in the townland of Farrigans, on the Hayes estate, near Stranorlar, county Donegal, for non-payment of rent ; if so can he say why some person, said to be representing the Estates Commissioners who was on the estate last week, would take no notice of the claim of Mrs.

M'Cool; and whether he will direct the Commissioners to send down an inspector to inquire into her claim and see that the sale of the estate is not completed until the widow is reinstated or compensated for the loss of her farm.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have fully investigated Mrs. M'Cool's application, and have ascertained that upwards of seventeen years ago the applicant's late husband surrendered the farm to his brother, who is still the tenant. The Commissioners have, therefore, decided to take no action in the matter.

Instruction in Irish.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that extra fees for the teaching of Irish have been restored, he will restore the fees for the teaching of mathematics, so as to deal justly with those districts in which mathematics is as essential as Gaelic, and especially as teachers have been informed, when asking an increase of income, that it could be supplemented by teaching extra subjects.

MR. BIRRELL: The question of extra fees for mathematics is at present under consideration.

School Teachers' Salaries.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland the average annual salary and emoluments of national school teachers of the various classes and grades in Ireland; and whether, for the sake of comparison, he can furnish similar particulars for England, including Wales, and Scotland, respectively.

MR. BIRRELL: In the year 1904, the last for which figures are available, the average income of principal teachers in Irish national schools was £105 4s. 9d. for men and £84 11s. 6d. for women, and the average income of assistants was £73 13s. 10d. for men and £58 7s. 9d. for women. For information as to the corresponding figures for England and Scotland I must refer the hon. Member to the Ministers representing the Departments concerned.

Dromagh Untenanted Lands.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have recently received any further application respecting the sale of the untenanted lands on the estate of Mr. William N. Leader, of Dromagh, county Cork; has any proposal been made to exclude the townland of Dysart from the proposed sale, and, if so, on what grounds; and whether the Commissioners will refuse to sanction the purchase of these lands unless the circumstances and needs of the locality are taken into consideration and reasonable provision made for the restoration of evicted tenants, the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, and the applotment of suitable holdings amongst the deserving labourers of the district.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received no further communication from the owner in this case. The owner proposes to exclude a portion of the townland of Dysart from the sale, upon the ground that he himself is using 352 acres of the land, and only receives a head rent out of the remaining 239 acres. As I informed the hon. Member on 27th February, the Commissioners will, before sanctioning the sale, make full inquiries as to the wants and circumstances of people in the neighbourhood.

Athenry Sheep and Cattle Raids.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the same day that Mr. Persse's farm was cleared of sheep and cattle the farm of Mr. Palmer, near Athenry, was also cleared; and, seeing that a movement is on foot to raid another farm of Mr. Persse's at Boyhill, near Athenry, what steps are being taken to deal with this state of lawlessness.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 28th May a crowd of about 150 men invaded the grass farm of Rathreddy, near Athenry, now held by Mr. Burton Persse, J.P., where they found two herds shearing Mr. Persse's sheep, and that the crowd tore up the fleeces and scattered the wool over the fields, and drove the sheep and cattle on to the high road; will he say how many police were present during the proceedings, and how many arrests were made; and has he any official information showing that the fact that Mr. Persse did his duty as a magistrate in deciding for the conviction of certain persons charged with clearing grass farms at Castle Ellen and Elphin was publicly proclaimed in the district as the reason for the outrage.

MR. BIRRELL: On 28th May a crowd of about 100 persons drove cattle from Mr. Palmer's farm and sheep from Mr. Persse's farm on to the public road. It is, however, not the fact that the crowd tore up the fleeces and scattered the wool. Two policemen were present. No arrests were made, but proceedings have been instituted against five men whom the police identified, and these proceedings are now pending. Mr. Persse was one of the bench of magistrates at Athenry who returned certain defendants for trial upon a charge of unlawful assembly and intimidation. This gentleman's farm at Boyhill is being constantly protected by three policemen, and arrangements have been made for speedy communication with Athenry to obtain assistance if necessary. The farm is within a mile of Athenry Police Station.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say what sum of money was allocated under Section 38 of 3 Edward 7, cap. 37, for the portion of the financial year ending 31st March, 1904, during which the aforesaid Act was in operation; and will he say whether the entire £50,000, as provided in the section referred to, has been paid into the Irish Land Purchase Fund each year since?

MR. BIRRELL: Under the section quoted, the sum of £50,000 was paid from the Ireland Development Grant to the Irish Land Purchase Fund for the financial year ending 31st March, 1904, and a like sum has been paid in each succeeding year.

Ballintubber Raid—Lord Denman's Speech.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at Ballintubber, on Thursday last, at the hearing of a charge against twelve men of having driven cattle off a farm; whether he is aware that no evidence was called to controvert the police evidence connecting the accused men with the offence, but the solicitor for the defence asserted that they had it on the authority of Lord Denman that the people of Ireland had reason for what they were doing; whether he is aware that three of the four magistrates on the bench refused an information, and that the fourth magistrate was a resident magistrate; whether he has made any report upon the case; and whether it is intended to take further proceedings in this case.

MR. BIRRELL: It is the fact that in the case referred to the majority of the magistrates refused to receive informations. The evidence in the case has been submitted to my right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland, who has directed that a Bill against the defendants shall be sent up to the Grand Jury at the next assizes. The case, therefore, is still *sub judice*, and I do not propose to discuss the nature of the evidence or the proceedings which took place before the magistrates.

District Council Chairman and Magisterial Functions.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Kilmore branch of the United Irish League have passed a resolution calling upon the chairman of the Carrick-on-Shannon Rural District Council to resign his position on the ground that he declined to obey the summons of the League to adjudicate as a magistrate in the recent agrarian prosecutions at Hill Street; and what action he proposes to take to secure the proper administration of justice in that district.

MR. BIRRELL: I have no information in this matter beyond the fact that a newspaper report to the effect mentioned in the first part of the Question has appeared. I have no reason to suppose that the proper administration of justice will be affected by any such resolution.

Fees for Instruction in Irish.

MR. GWYNN (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the new scale of fees for Irish will be made applicable to the year ending June, 1907.

MR. BIRRELL: The new scale of fees for teaching Irish will come into operation on 1st July next. I regret that it has not been found possible to apply the new scale to the current school year.

MR. BOLAND: What will be the amount of money required to pay the fees this year?

MR. BIRRELL: I cannot give the exact figures.

MR. LONSDALE: Has the right hon. Gentleman obtained any guarantee that instruction in Irish will not be used as a means of teaching sedition?

MR. J. DEVLIN: And will premiums be given to teach Ulster Tory Members to speak English?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Evicted Tenants Return.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the Return moved for by the Member for North Armagh, relating to evicted tenants in Ireland,† so that independent inquiry may be made on behalf of parties interested into the merits of the several cases.

MR. BIRRELL: I propose to lay upon the Table in the course of a few days a Report prepared by the Estates Commissioners showing the result of their investigation of the cases of evicted tenants. This Report, however, will not contain particulars of individual cases, and a Return of such cases cannot be given. It must be obvious that no good purpose could be served by furnishing material for the purpose of enabling independent inquiry to be made by interested persons into the thousands of cases investigated by the Commissioners.

Irish Fishery Rights.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether under the Land Act of 1903, when estates are being purchased on which there are fishery rights, the claims of fishermen who have been tenants of such fisheries, either as tenants under lease or from year to year, and where such tenancies have been held for a great number of years, in some cases for more than a century, will be duly considered with a view to the purchase of such fisheries on behalf of the fishermen, or, failing such purchase, that their rights will be safeguarded either by granting them a lease or giving them a yearly title, which cannot be disturbed, at a reasonable rent; and whether the attention of the Irish Department of Fisheries and the Land Purchase Commissioners will be called to all such cases and an inquiry held into them if required.

MR. BIRRELL: The Land Commission inform me that no case appears to have arisen such as is referred to in the Question. The 99th Section of the Act of 1903 provides that the Act shall not affect sporting rights which are not in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale; and the expression "sporting rights" includes fishery rights. If any question relating to fishery rights should arise in connection with the sale of an estate, the Land Commission will consider the matter in connection with the section quoted and Section 13 of the Act.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mrs. Scully.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Mrs. Scully, a widow with a large family, who was evicted with her husband, who then lived, from a farm at Kilbreedy, county Limerick, in 1895; will he inquire if her late husband made a claim for a farm on the Mount Shannon estate at Annacoty, county Limerick; whether, on 28th January, 1905, he was present when an inspector from the Estates Commissioners attended for the purpose of marking out the farms on this estate, and drew Lot 1, a farm of about 37 acres; that the farms were drawn by lot on that date, and, her husband having died in October of that year, she got no notice of any further distribution; and whether, under those circumstances, special attention will be given to the claim of this woman.

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† Return of the evicted tenants whose applications have been recognised by the Estates Commissioners as deserving reinstatement showing (a) their names and descriptions; (b) the counties and holdings from which they have been evicted; (c) the date of such eviction; and (d) the amount of rent due at the date of such eviction.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that Daniel Scully, the evicted tenant referred to in the Question, applied for a holding on the Mount Shannon estate. As the number of evicted tenants who had applied for farms was largely in excess of the possible number of holdings to be allotted, the inspector, at an early stage of the negotiations for purchase, allowed the applicants to draw lots for the sixteen separate holdings into which it was then proposed to divide the estate, in order that the Commissioners might know whether the applicants would take the holdings which might be offered to them if the estate were purchased. The purchase was not completed until two years later, and the estate was then divided into twelve lots only. Scully had died in the meantime. The Commissioners fully considered Mrs. Scully's claim, but did not select her as being one of the most suitable of the applicants for the holdings.

Mr. JOYCE: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of my question?

MR. BIRRELL: It is rather difficult to see what special attention can be given to this woman. The Commissioners came to the conclusion she was not the most suitable applicant for this farm.

MR. JOYCE: They might give her another farm.

Instructions to the Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any orders have been issued to the Royal Irish Constabulary debarring them from making arrests or taking prompt proceedings against offenders in cases of intimidation, riot, affrays, or unlawful assemblies in connection with the grazing agitation or other agrarian disturbances; whether, in dealing with such offences, the police are prohibited from acting on their own responsibility, and are required to report all such cases and to await the instructions of Government before any action can be taken; and, if so, in view of the delay caused by obedience to such instructions and the injury to the maintenance of order in the disturbed localities, he proposes to withdraw such instructions.

MR. BIRRELL: It would be entirely contrary to practice to state the nature of instructions issued to the Royal Irish Constabulary. In order, however, to avoid misconception, I may say that the police have full authority to arrest persons guilty of acts of violence; but, in accordance with long established practice, they report to headquarters the facts in cases of the nature referred to in which violence has not been used, in order that the sufficiency of the evidence and the nature of the proceedings to be taken may be considered. There is no intention of altering the practice.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Is the driving of another man's cattle out of his field on to the high road an act of violence?

MR. BIRRELL: The police stop it whenever they can.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Have they made a single arrest in any of these cases?

[No Answer was returned.]

Sir Henry Burke's Galway Estate.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the cattle on the holding of a small farmer called Donnelly, on Sir Henry Burke's estate, East Galway, were driven off in the presence of a body of police; and if the Government are prepared to treat this as a serious offence.

MR. BIRRELL: Mr. Donnelly's cattle were driven off his farm on 30th May. Four policemen were present, but they were unable to prevent the offence. Proceedings have been directed against those offenders who can be identified, with the object of having them bound to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

Captain CRAIG: Will one of the Law Officers of the Crown prosecute in these cases to show the perpetrators of the outrage the determination of the Government to stop them?

Mr. BIRRELL: The Government are doing all they can to stop them.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: And that is nothing at all.

Mr. Charles Clarke's Thurles Farm.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the cattle on the property of Mr. Charles Clarke, Graiguenoe, Holy Cross, Thurles, are now guarded by police to prevent them being driven off; and if this district is in a satisfactory condition.

Mr. BIRRELL: Mr. Clarke's farm is frequently visited by police patrols with the object of preventing interference with the cattle on it. Mr. Clarke himself does not live on the farm. The district of Holy Cross is reported to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Ballintubber Prosecution—Magistrates' Jurisdiction.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that at a recent prosecution at Ballintubber, county Sligo, when the defendants were acquitted, one of the justices, Mr. Hanley, who attended, lives in a different petty sessions district about fourteen miles away, and that Mr Rorke, another of the same justices, lives in a different petty sessions district ten miles away from Ballintubber; if he will report this conduct to the Lord Chancellor, or what action he proposes to take.

Mr. BIRRELL: The circumstances referred to in the Question have been brought to the notice of the Lord Chancellor, who is at present in communication with the magistrates concerned in reference to it.

Captain CRAIG: Have other similar cases occurred?

Mr. BIRRELL: Yes, several.

Captain CRAIG: A large number. Has the Lord Chancellor come to a decision in any case brought to his notice?

Mr. BIRRELL: I cannot say.

Captain CRAIG: May we expect an Answer before the Prorogation?

Mr. BIRRELL: I hope so.

Larne School House.

Colonel McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how long have the negotiations between the parishioners of Larne, the National Board of Education, and the Board of Works been going on for a grant for a new school house at Larne, county Antrim; how often has the present school house been condemned as insanitary and with insufficient accommodation for the school children; what threats have been made to the rector by the urban council, calling upon him to abolish the nuisance at once; how can the matter be dealt with when the Board of Works refuse to grant an advance of the necessary money; and will he give directions to the Board of Works to take the matter in hand at once and not drop it till the grant is made and the urban council of Larne satisfied.

Mr. BIRRELL: The formal application for a grant in this case was made on 17th February, 1905. It is admittedly the fact that the existing school house is unsuitable and does not afford sufficient accommodation for the pupils in attendance. The delay in dealing with this and similar cases has been due to the necessity of revising the building plans and settling the scale of grants for school buildings generally. An agreement upon these points has been reached, but some details as to the plans remain to be worked out. The matter is being pressed forward, and the Board of Works expect to be in a position very shortly to authorise the manager to proceed with the erection of a new school house in this case.

Benmore Farm Raid.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that 130 sheep and lambs were driven off the farm of Thomas Corcoran, Benmore, county Galway, on 2nd July; that Corcoran took this farm from the Congested Districts Board in November, 1906, against the wishes and directions of the Bullaun branch of the United Irish League; and that this fact is attributed as the reason for the outrage; and what steps are being taken.

MR. BIRRELL: On the 3rd instant ninety-three sheep and cattle were driven off Corcoran's farm. The animals were recovered and put back on the farm on the same day. The police have no knowledge that Corcoran took the farm contrary to the wishes of the United Irish League, or that this was the reason for driving off the cattle. The offenders in the case are not known. The police are paying attention to the farm.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: How many arrests have been made in the area of which this district is the centre?

MR. BIRRELL: I am afraid I cannot say.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Beyond paying attention to the farm, are the police endeavouring to find the culprits?

MR. BIRRELL: The police are doing their duty.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I ask whether the police are trying to find the culprits?

MR. BIRRELL: That would be doing their duty.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I am very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that.

Killescragh Raid.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the night of 2nd June over 100 sheep and thirty-five cattle, the property of Mat Bowes, of Loughrea, were driven off his farm at Killescragh on to the public road; whether he is aware that this farm was offered by the landlord for sale to his tenants in 1904 and the offer was refused by them; and what steps are being taken to protect this farm.

MR. BIRRELL: The police have been informed that on the date mentioned Mr. Bowes' sheep and cattle were driven off his farm on to the public road, and were at once put back by the herd. There is no evidence against the offenders. I have no information that the farm was offered by the landlord for sale to the tenants. The police are protecting the farm by means of patrols.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: May I ask whether, in view of the widespread lawlessness clearly indicated by the Answers to several Questions, the right hon. Gentleman or his advisors have yet considered the question of using the other powers which they possess to stamp out these outrages?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should give notice of that Question.

Kiltulla Farm Raid.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the night of the 2nd instant Mr. Frank Shawe Taylor's farm at Kiltulla, county Galway, was raided and the cattle and sheep driven all over the country; whether he is aware that this farm was bought by Mr. Shawe Taylor under the Ashbourne Acts some years ago; and, seeing that eight other farms in the same parish were raided on the same night, and in view of the rapidly increasing number of cases of cattle driving, whether he will consider the desirability of framing rules directing the Estates Commissioners not to sell holdings on estates where intimidation exists.

MR. BIRRELL: On the morning of the 3rd instant the cattle were driven off the farms of Mr. Shawe Taylor and five other persons in the locality referred to. It is the fact that Mr. Shawe Taylor purchased his farm under the Ashbourne Acts. As regards the latter part of the Question, I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the Question of the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division on 14th May,† which reply I have since repeated on several occasions.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxiv., 800.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: May I ask if it is not a fact that another member of the Government has indicated that action is about to be taken by the Estates Commissioners in the direction of refusing to make sales of these farms to persons who have taken part in these unlawful assemblies?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a Question of which notice should be given.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: May I ask whether, in any of the so-called cattle-raiding cases, any person, or, indeed, any of the cattle, has received the slightest injury?

MR. BIRRELL: I would rather not go into that, but I am very glad to think that the cattle have not received injury.

MR. KILBRIDE: How many asses and donkeys have been driven off?

Dromard Untenanted Land.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have received a resolution from the Croagh branch of the United Irish League, in the county of Limerick, asking them to give some of the untenanted lands on the Brown estate at Dromard, which have been purchased by them, to Mrs. O'Grady and T. Ahern, both of whom are tenants of uneconomic holdings on the estate; and, if so, what action do they propose to take in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received the resolution referred to, but owing to the absence of particulars have been unable to identify the estate to which it is meant to refer.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire?

MR. BIRRELL: They must first have particulars to enable them to identify the estate.

Lord Denman's Speech.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a statement of Lord Denman,† a member of His Majesty's Government, made with reference to cattle raiding, that the people of Ireland had reason for what they were doing, and to another statement of the same noble Lord that cattle raiding was not a crime of a serious nature; whether he is aware that within two days of Lord Denman's speech counsel for several persons indicted for driving cattle at Tohenagh, county Roscommon, pleaded these statements in defence of the prisoners; and whether he has given any instructions to Crown prosecutors in Ireland to treat offences of this kind as venial.

MR. BIRRELL: It would be quite irregular to discuss, by way of Question and Answer in this House, a statement made by a member of His Majesty's Government in another place. I may, however, say that the remarks quoted in the Question taken from their context convey a very wrong impression of what the noble Lord said on the occasion. The Answer to the concluding part of the Question is in the negative.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered that portion of the Question which deals with cattle driving at Tohenagh.

MR. BIRRELL: I believe it is a fact that the solicitor for the defence made some reference to the speech delivered in another place, but I have no control over him.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: Did not the solicitor take the same view of that statement as we do?

MR. BIRRELL: I think it is possible.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: It is true.

Ballintubber Cattle Raid.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what steps have been taken against the seventy-five employees of the Estates Commissioners and the thirty employees of the Congested Districts Board who were engaged in cattle driving near Ballintubber on the 10th ultimo; and whether he will give orders that these men are not to be employed again by the above-mentioned authorities.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 450.

Mr. BIRRELL: I refer to my former Answer to a Question on this subject in which I stated that the employees referred to were members of a crowd some of whom drove cattle off the farm. I have no information that the particular men were actually engaged in driving off the cattle. Both the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board have given instructions that their employees should be cautioned against taking part in any such practices. The men in question are daily labourers temporarily employed.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A (added in respect of the Incest Bill): Mr. Russell Rea; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Incest Bill): Mr. Walter Rea.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee C (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Sir John Benn; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Vaccination Bill): Mr. Bright.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Third Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HOME WORK.

Ordered, That Mr. William Redmond be discharged from the Select Committee on Home Work.

Ordered, That Mr Hugh Law be added to the Committee.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

TELEGRAPH [MONEY.]

Resolution reported; "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums not exceeding in the whole £6,000,000 for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, and to apply the provisions of The Telegraph Act, 1892, to the raising of such sums."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sydney Buxton and Mr. Runciman.

TELEGRAPH (MONEY) BILL.

"To provide for raising further money for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 232.]

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a secon time."

*Mr. CHAPLIN (Wimbledon) said Some years ago it was my fortune to introduce a Bill on the same subject as tha which we are about to discuss this afternoon, viz.: the question of small holdings At that time I was followed in the debat by the father of the right hon. Gentlema who to-day is in charge of this measure in terms and in kindly language whic it is a pleasure to me to recall eve at this day, and to me, at all events it is a pleasing and grateful coincidenc that, standing in the same place an speaking from the same bench as hi father did on that occasion, it is no my privilege to offer my warmest congratulations to the son upon the marke ability and skill with which he has presented his scheme of land legislation t this House. I desire to add this that in the great object which h has in view, and which I take to be th arrest, if it be possible by legislation, c that distressing and prolonged exodus c the rural population from the countr districts to the towns, he will find m colleagues and myself, and gentlema genererally in this part of the House, i hearty concurrence with him, whateve we may think of some of the metho and the machinery by which he seel to accomplish this most desirable end. The right hon. Gentleman thinks that there may naturally and properly be difference of opinion as to the cause of the decline in our agricultural population. I agree with him so far that there is undoubtedly more than one cause which has contributed to it. The Prime Minister, however, in a very curious and remarkable speech made in London on 22nd April, seems to be of opinion that in some kind of way, which he did not explain, we on this side of the House are responsible for it, seeing that the Unionist Party had been in power for twenty years, during which time we had had the exclusive control of the agricultural situation, and a sorry performance it was, so he said, which we had produced. But does not the Prime Minister know what is really the main cause of this decline? I am sorry he is not present to-day, but in his absence, and if he does not know the real cause, and if his view is the view of many of his Party, perhaps I may be allowed to throw a little light on the subject. I propose to do so from two sources, both of which I am sure must be acceptable to hon. Members opposite. For one is a single short sentence from the Report of the last Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression appointed by a cabinet of which he was a member and of which Mr. Gladstone himself was the head. The other is information supplied by the present Minister of Agriculture and presented to both Houses of Parliament during the closing months of last year. As regards the Commission, if hon. Gentlemen care to look at the Report, they will find in one of its final clauses a passage which it is worth while to remember to-day because it bears so directly on rural depopulation, and ten years ago it offered a serious warning to Parliament and to the country, of what we had to look forward to in that direction in future. The passage was as follows—

> "The grave situation we have described, affecting no inconsiderable part of Great Britain, is due to a long-continued fall in prices. This fall is attributed by the great majority of the witnesses to foreign competition. . . . So far then as the maintenance of this competition involves the continued depreciation of agricultural values, we must look forward to a further reduction of the area of British land susceptible of profitable arable cultivation, together with a corresponding contraction of our production and a diminution of our rural population."

That was the forecast of Mr. Gladstone's Commission, consisting of sixteen members of whom no fewer than fourteen signed the sentence I quote; and a Commission, remember, on which there was a large majority of members holding the views and opinions generally of right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. Now I come to the evidence published by the present Minister of Agriculture, Lord Carrington, towards the end of last session. It is still more remarkable and still more important, because it is really the latest evidence we have on the subject, and it will be no waste of time to spend a few moments upon it, because it bears so directly upon every one of the most important questions which will arise under this Bill. It was collected by Mr. Rew, through the official correspondents of that Board, in every part of the country. It is not too much to say that Mr. Rew is one of the ablest and most experienced officials of the Board of Agriculture and in the long list of names of their correspondents you will find included those of almost every agriculturist of eminence and distinction, and knowledge in the Kingdom. What is the outcome of the information put before us by the President of the Board of Agriculture? It is as follows: in March of last year a circular was issued by the Board of Agriculture to their correspondents throughout the country containing five questions upon which they desired information, and it is to two of these questions and the replies to them, bearing directly upon the decline of the rural population, that I desire to direct the attention of the House. The first of the two was as follows—

> "What, in your opinion, are the immediate causes of the decline in the agricultural population, naming them in order of importance, in your district?"

Taking the replies for England and Wales, with which this Bill is alone concerned, what do I find? I have made an analysis of them, and putting aside Middlesex and London, what they show is as follows: that out of forty-one counties in England, with two exceptions they all of them put as the first and the main cause of depopulation—

> "The great fall in prices, with the consequent conversion of arable land into grass,"

this conversion again being due to the necessity of reducing the labour bill to the smallest dimensions, from the absolute want of means wherewith to pay wages. The two exceptions are, first, the Isle of Ely, and secondly, the East Riding of Yorkshire. I may mention that the Isle of Ely is exceedingly fertile, and specially suited to market gardening, which employs a great deal of labour, and naturally accounts for the population not declining. In the East Riding of Yorkshire the reason is different, for there a number of very young boys, too young really to be employed, are engaged instead of grown up men; they become discontented with their work, and leave their places almost on the first opportunity. As to Wales, out of eleven counties in the Principality seven assign the same causes as in England, but one of them puts the attractions of the town first, and the other the lack of cottages. The other four give various reasons, not of any special importance. If these replies are to be trusted at all, then I hope some friends will convey my question to the Prime Minister. Does the right hon. Gentleman still wish to imply that we on this side of the House are responsible for the main and principal cause of the rural decline? If he does, does he think that we ought to have done something to remove the main cause of it, by trying to raise the prices of agricultural produce? I pass to the second question, which is more specific in its terms—

> "Is there any difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings or allotments, and, if so, is this difficulty attributed in any way to the decline of the rural population?"

Now, I take the question of small holdings first. It is not very easy to make any perfectly accurate summary, in this case, because the answers to the question are not always direct; but I have done my best, and I think I shall be pretty near the mark when I say that in forty-eight counties in England and Wales there are five which say there is difficulty in getting land for small holdings; ten where it is not apparent; seventeen more who maintain that the difficulty is not in getting the land, but in providing the buildings; and ten who say there is little demand. If you add the last three together, there are thirty-four counties in which you may say that there is practically no difficulty in getting the necessary land. The remainder d not give answers which furnish a reply to the question. Now I come to the question of allotments, and here I have to point out that out of forty three counties in England, while there is no response to the question from five of those counties, the remaining thirty-eight, with one single exception, viz., the East Riding of Yorkshire, reply that there is no difficulty in obtaining land for the purpose. And when I go on to Wales, four out of the eleven counties in Wales say there is no difficulty in getting land and three that the difficulty is not in the land but in providing the buildings. Of the remaining four, two say the difficulty is great, one says it is not always easy, and the fourth does not answer the question In view of these replies, and of th statement of the Prime Minister o the 22nd April last, that in distric after district all over the country the demand for land for the purposes of us and labour was met with a blank denia we are placed in a serious difficulty because the statements of the Prim Minister and the evidence quoted are in absolute conflict. When I first rea the speech, I asked myself, "But where is the proof of it?" I want t ask this question, Was he aware o this report? Had it been put before him when he made this statement? If i was not, I think he was very badly treated by his Minister of Agriculture But if it was, I want to ask this question How is he going to reconcile the statement he made on that occasion with the precise and elaborate infor mation contained in this Report and published only last year? How is he going to reconcile these two statements unless he is prepared to say that thi information is wholly misleading? pass from that to say this: having looked at this evidence myself, and having examined it with the greatest possibl care, it seems to me clear, unless it can be disputed, that the Prime Minister ha not a leg to stand on in respect of th statement which he made on tha occasion. It is in absolute contradictio of the whole of this information we hav before us; and we have the right to ask and we shall claim to be told before thi debate comes to an end, how he attempt to reconcile his statement with th evidence supplied by his own Minister o Agriculture. We have the more righ to demand it, because the House will remember, or those who have studied his speech with as much care as I have done will remember, that it was on those statements that the right hon. Gentleman founded his demand for that coercion, for that particular form of compulsion, which was to be so severe, and also to be as swift and as extensive as could be contrived. And all this is to be done because "the demand for land for the purpose of use and labour has met with nothing but blank denials." Purposes of use and labour! There is no kind of land which affords so much labour as land for allotments, because it is mainly done by the spade; that is a fact which no one acquainted with this question can put on one side; you cannot ignore it; yet it was in the face of information of this kind, which he ought to have had before him on the Table at the time he was speaking, that the Prime Minister chose to make this attack on the Party which is on this side of the House, and to make this unfounded demand for a severer form of compulsion than we have ever known before in this country. In the same breath almost, the Minister for Agriculture tells us something which I do not remember to have heard mentioned before, that in more than half of the counties in England, allotments are being given up; there are more allotments in existence already than there are people to take them. Many of them have gone out of cultivation altogether; some of them, the Report says, are growing nothing but weeds at the present moment, and others again are merged in the farms from which they were originally taken. Surely that is a very remarkable position of affairs. It is still more remarkable that it has been wholly ignored by the Prime Minister and by every one of his colleagues in the Government up to the present time; so much so that until I had a prospect of coming back to the House of Commons and began to look up the information on the subject, I was totally unaware of it, and I can honestly say that I became aware of it rather to my surprise, and very greatly indeed to my regret—regret for this reason: that it is exceedingly ominous for the future of this Bill, because the policy of the Government is exactly to-day, so far as I am able to follow it, on the same lines as the policy of the Bill of 1894, which adopted compulsory hiring for allotments, which extended allotments from one acre to four, and practically made them small holdings; for allotments of four acres to all intents and purposes are small holdings. And it is these hired allotments which now already are being given up. I agree most warmly with my right hon. friend, if I may be permitted so to address him, in his desire to arrest this terrible decline of the rural population. That was also the object of the Bill of 1892. But I am very far from thinking that my right hon. friend is going the right way to work. The earlier Bill sought to add largely to the number of owners of land in this country, and on terms which were favourable in themselves, though I have reason to think, since then, that those terms might have been made more favourable still, and with very considerable advantage. And in order to give them every inducement to do the best that they could, both for the land and for themselves, the actual ownership and the possession of land was made the principle of the Bill; and we also invoked what is called the "Magic of Property," which has done such wonders in so many parts of the world as the best chance of ensuring success. For this, we had as our guide the experience, not only of the numerous yeomen, the statesmen as they are called in the north of England, and the very large number of freeholders, who formerly flourished in our own country; we had also that vast peasant proprietary which exists now, and which still continues to flourish in large numbers, in almost every country on the continent of Europe. But in the Bill which is now before us you proceed upon wholly different lines. You seek to create a vast army of tenants, not of owners of land. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] Yes, and tenants holding farms—I do not think hon. Gentlemen opposite will be prepared to cheer so vehemently what I am going to say—not from a landlord, which they greatly prefer, but from a middleman, which all experience in the old days in Ireland and elsewhere has taught us is the most pernicious form of tenure in the world; and that is really one of the main distinctions between the Bill of 1892 and the Bill to-day. I do most earnestly hope, in the interests of the Bill itself, that some modifications in this respect will be accepted in the course of our discussions. Why you do this I cannot conceive unless it be this, that if the experiment fails, as fail I believe it will upon your lines, the failure will be at the cost of the rates, instead of Imperial funds. And yet your justification for your policy is that it is a great national object, and if that be so, then the cost of those experiments, if cost there be, should fall on national funds. I know it is said that the Bill of 1892 was a failure—[MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear!"]—and in a sense so it was, but from no fault of its own. What happened was this: the Bill came into operation at the end of the year 1892, and before we had had time to turn round, before the Bill had had time to come into operation, a new Government came into power, and the first thing they did was to supersede the operation of this Bill by introducing another for compulsory hiring, and by which holdings up to four acres could be acquired by hire. At first the new system was exceedingly popular, and the hired allotments were eagerly sought for. The new tenants got everything out of the land that they could, and a very good time they had to begin with, quite forgetting, however, that what they took out of the land at some time or other must be put back again somehow if it was to continue productive in future, and with the result that we have already learnt from the Board's information that in half the counties of England hired allotments are being now given up, and there are more allotments than people to take them. On the other hand, I claim this for the Bill of 1892. We have every reason to believe that, but for its supersession by the Act of 1894, it would have had far more effect than it did; and secondly, that where it came into operation, before the passing of that Act, it proved to be highly successful, and went far to show how the problem could be solved. What happened in the short interval between the two Bills was this: The Returns for the year 1895 show that in the two years before the passing of the Act of 1894, eight county councils in England took action under the Bill of 1892. The evidence given in regard to small holdings shows that after the Bill of 1894 came into operation twelve years ago only one of the county councils in England have acquired more land since then. But 700 acres have been acquired under that Act, and I will give the House an illustration showing the success of the measure. I was supplied with this information just before I came to the House to-day. At Catshill, a little village in the parish of North Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, there was a little colony of people whose industry was making hand nails. Some time ago they were very hard hit by competition and their industry was destroyed, and they had to look for a new means of livelihood. In their distress they petitioned the county council of Worcestershire to get them land for small holdings under the Act. The Worcestershire County Council bought 147 acres of land, and it was divided amongst these people and all the information at my disposal at the present time goes to show that this little colony of people, who would otherwise have been ruined by the loss of their industry, are now flourishing because they were supplied with small holdings which are now their own property. That is a hopeful, and, I think, a delightful illustration that there is some possibility of doing some real good in this direction if we only proceed by the right, the wisest, and the best means. And now, if the House will bear with me still, I want for a moment to turn to the machinery and the methods by which the right hon. Gentleman gives effect to this scheme. Take Clause 1 to begin with. This clause enables the Board of Agriculture to appoint two or more Commissioners and other officials with powers which are exceptional and, for this purpose, entirely novel. Their first duty will be to ascertain what demand there is for small holdings in the several counties of England and Wales, and how far that demand can be reasonably satisfied. It provides that—

> "the council of any county, borough, district or parish may make representations to the Commissioners,"

and must furnish them with all information. The Commissioners are to report their information to any council which is affected, and to say if they think it desirable that a scheme should be made. If they report that it is, then the council is to draft one or more schemes to give effect to the report, but if they fail what is to happen? If they fail, the

the Commissioners are to prepare one themselves, for which they are given the widest powers under Clause 32. If the council objects the Commissioners are to hold an inquiry, not necessarily local; and after inquiry they may settle or annul any scheme. If they decide to proceed with a scheme, it is the duty of the county council to carry it out, and if the council are in default the Commissioners are to carry it out for themselves, and all the expenses are to be repaid by the offending council, and recoverable as a debt from the Crown. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] Hon. Gentlemen opposite cheer that statement, and they seem to think it a very satisfactory mode of procedure. Now, I believe this is as accurate a description as can be given in a few words of the powers of the Commissioners, and there is, I fancy, outside of this House, whatever may be the case within its walls at present, a very general idea all over the country that this is what may be called a pretty strong order. People are beginning to rub their eyes and can hardly believe it. I will give the House a simple illustration of what might happen under these provisions. Clause 18, subsection 1, of the Small Holdings Act of 1902, which remains operative even now, provides as follows:—

> "A county council shall not acquire land under this Act save at such price that, in the opinion of the council, all expenses incurred by the council in relation to the land will be recouped out of the purchase money for the land sold by the council, or in the case of land let out of the rent, and shall fix the purchase money or rent at such reasonable amount as will, in their opinion, guard them against loss."

The county council acting under this clause and in the exercise of their judgment think they will be unable to make both ends meet, and decline to acquire the land or to proceed with the scheme. The Commissioners take a different view. They may say, "We disagree with you, the evidence does not warrant your belief. We think we know what is wanted better than you do and you must proceed with the scheme, and unless you do so we shall put in somebody else to do it instead." But the county council, remember, is a body elected on the widest suffrage, and who represent presumably therefore the views of the ratepayers, on whom the burden will fall. That is the position, and I ask my right hon. friend does he really think that it is a practical or workable scheme? If he does, I do not, and I ask the House frankly, and with all absence of Party feeling, whether this is machinery which can be considered as either practical or desirable, or of a kind that Parliament ought to enact in its present form? I am unwilling to spend more time upon it, and I find it hard to believe that it has the sanction of the Local Government Board, who must be aware of the unhappy results of this kind of coercion on a former occasion. But it will be news, I am sure, to the great majority of the House, and I will tell them about it. These powers are not by any means new. They have been in existence for a great number of years. In the old Sanitary Act of 1866 powers were given to the Secretary of State to take measures of this kind where the local authority was in default with regard to the provision of sewers or of water supply, or with regard to matters gravely affecting the health of the people. The only experience we have of their working is most unsatisfactory. The case is set out in the Public Works Loans Act in 1878; and I am going to state to the House what occurred on that occasion — the only occasion — when these powers were ever put in force in this country. The sewer authority at Epping in 1878 was declared to be in default in not providing proper sewerage and water supply. The Secretary of State, just as my right hon. friend might do next year if he carries his Bill, put into force the powers at his disposal, and he appointed a person to do the work for him, directing that the cost should be charged on the local authority. He did the work, borrowing £11,900 for the purpose from the Local Loans Commissioners to begin with; and demanding repayment from the local authority. Well, the local authority told him to go somewhere. The local authority declined to pay anything of the kind. The next step was to take proceedings to make them. After a great deal of wrangling and many attempts and trials at settlement between the two parties it ended in this way. The Treasury had to take as a compromise £5,000 for the debt, and to make good the remainder of £6,900 themselves. From that day to this, and they were good judges, no Government Department has ever attempted to use these powers again. It is not an agreeable prospect for my right hon. friend, and I certainly shall not envy him whenever he seeks to force this scheme on the county councils against their will. There are still one or two points of importance with which, I think, I ought to deal. This Bill proposes to give powers for compulsion of the most extreme kind in regard to the purchase as well as the hire of land. I know of course that there are precedents again and again for the taking of land by compulsion, but compulsion of this kind ought not to be practised unless in the first place you show that there is necessity for it, and in the second place that when land is forcibly taken against the will of the owner, you are bound to make him fair and full compensation. But in both these respects you have failed. Unless the report of Mr. Rew to the Board of Agriculture is wrong and misleading, I have shown that necessity cannot be alleged. And I fail to discover where and how in various cases you provide for compensation. As to purchase, however, I am of opinion that there is so much land in the market at the present time that you will find land ready for you to purchase whether you have in the Bill this clause for compulsion or not, and I do not think myself, wrong though it is, that it is likely to make any very great difference. But the case of leasing is entirely different. If you take a man's land against his will the least you can do is to pay him for it. He has a right to ask for it, and there are a whole variety of different grounds in respect of which I can see that the landlord is likely to be placed in a position of great difficulty unless you adopt this course. Take the case of land which is mortgaged. I foresee the possibility of great difficulties for the owner. The mortgagee may be dissatisfied with the position; he may think that land on which he has a charge, acquired by hire for the purpose of being cut up into small holdings, and which may perhaps be returned in a dilapidated condition a few years hence, is a security which, to say the least of it, is not satisfactory. He calls in the mortgagee, and if he should be impecunious, you may land him in bankruptcy and nothing else very soon. But, apart from that altogether, I submit another case which I think hon. Members will admit I have very good reasons for bringing before them. Take the case of a parish belonging to a single owner, and there are scores of such parishes all over the country. Perhaps a large part is let to a first-rate tenant who is doing his farming as well as it is possible for him to do it. A half, or perhaps a quarter, of the land is extra good, and exactly suited for small holdings. You want this quarter or half of his farm, and in due course you give him notice to quit. You take it through your Commissioners if the county council refuse on compulsory hire giving the tenant notice to quit; and the tenant who loses the best part of hi land gives up his farm in consequence I know of hundreds of cases where this would be almost certain to happen because you must remember that there are hundreds and thousands of tenants throughout England to-day to whom the margin of profit is exceedingly small, even after rents have been reduced to the lowest possible ebb. I have offered great farms myself free of rent altogether without being able to find tenants for them—farms on which I have spent a great deal of money. The margin of profit is so small that nothing is more probable than that if a tenant is deprived of the best of his land he will give up the rest, and thereby you put the landlord in a position where he is not likely to find any tenant at all for the residue. What are you going to do for these people? My right hon. friend said—

> "I hope we shall not have any cheap declamation about confiscation."

So do I, and I hope still more that we shall not have cause for it. But you must remember this, that if you place the landlord and the farmer in the position which I have described, unless you make him full compensation I do not think you can easily escape the charge of confiscation. Well, what are you going to do either for the one or the other? As regards the tenant to whom you have given notice to quit, are you going to pay him compensation for all his improvements? Are you going to give him besides, compensation for disturbance and arbitrary eviction, about which you made such a fuss, and about which you carried a measure into law only last session? I can find nothing anywhere in the Bill which provides for it. I hope my right hon. friend will give us further information on this subject. have searched the Bill again and again on this point, and latterly with the aid of an expert, and neither of us has been able to find any provision by which compensation is enacted by the Bill in any form or shape in a case like this. The only reference to it at all is an incidental reference to compensation in one of the schedules of the Bill. This is a point on which I really do think we are entitled to have the fullest explanation from my right hon. friend. Unless I am wholly mistaken, after what I have put before the House on this particular branch of the question, I hope to be assured that he will remedy this part of the Bill during its passage through Committee. Again, the land you have taken will probably be, and I will suppose that it is, partly arable and partly grass. I see no provisions in the Bill whatever against the breaking up of the grass land. Is it intended that there should be provisions against that, and if the grass land is broken up, and its value is therefore diminished by more than a half, perhaps by three-quarters, in the event of its being returned to the landlord, are you or are you not going to make compensation? At the end of the lease the best will have been taken out of the land, like the numerous cases of allotments of which we hear now. Nobody else is willing to take it, and the council decline to renew the lease. Do you compensate the owner for the injury done to his land, and if not, why not? And if you do, where is it provided? If it is not provided, and if, when you return it, the land is less in value than when you took it, then unless you give to the owner fair compensation you cannot escape the charge of confiscation. But suppose that I wrongly interpret the Bill, and that you intend in such a case to make compensation, from what source is it to come? Is it to come from the rates? If it is, why everyone knows that the burden of the rates ultimately falls on the land, and the owner will simply be paying his own compensation out of one pocket into the other. There are two other points only with which I wish to deal; the equipment of the small holdings and the provision of buildings. I understand that the Government are prepared to help the tenants in these respects, if I understand the Bill aright, out of a fund to be placed by the Treasury in the Bank of England. But if you are going to do this, may I not suggest to my right hon. friend that surely it would be better to make the tenant the owner at once and to give him the advantages enjoyed by the Irish tenant to-day. The Irish tenants are no more entitled to the advantage than the tenants of England that the payment of rent or instalments, if you like, should include principal and interest, and that at the end of a certain number of years they should find the land their own. I make the suggestion to my right hon. friend, and I hope he may think it worthy of consideration. There is another matter, small perhaps, but not unimportant. I find in Clause 11 that a county council may relax the condition imposed by Section 9 of the Small Holdings Act of 1892 that not more than one dwelling-house shall be erected, if, in their opinion, such would increase the value of the holding for other than agricultural purposes. That raises serious considerations. I have in my mind abuses which arose in certain parts of the country from too many houses being erected on the land. In my own county in former days we used to have thousands of small freeholders living on the land, where these conditions sometimes prevailed. I am somewhat afraid that if Section 9 of the Small Holdings Act were to be repealed or relaxed, and still more, if Section 19 of this Bill, which allows the erection of more than one dwelling-house on 5 acres of land, is not amended we may run the risk of creating in England congested districts from which we have suffered so much in the past, and suffer still, both in Ireland and in Scotland as well. There are numerous other details in the Bill which it might be desirable to mention, but I feel I have already spoken too long. [Cries of "No."] I have endeavoured to deal with what appeared to me some of the more essential points in connection with the Bill, and not, I hope, with any undue hostility with regard to it. On the contrary, no one would rejoice more than myself to see a really workable and practical measure passed by this House on the question of small holdings. I hope that we on this side of the House may be met in a similar spirit on the Government side of the House. This ought to be regarded as a non-Party question. We are confronted with a grave national condition and that can only be removed by proceeding in dealing with it with the utmost possible caution and care if we are not to make the case worse. We hope we shall be met frankly and fairly by suitable concessions, but should we be disappointed in that respect when we come to the close of the discussion of the clauses in Committee, it will be our duty to reserve to ourselves the right to take any course we think fit with respect to the Bill in its future stages. I thank the House for the patience and attention with which they have listened to all I have said on this question, and I should like to say this in conclusion. I have sometimes heard hard things said of this House of Commons. I can only speak of my own experience, and though I hope I am not given to speaking too much of myself—I hope I may be allowed to add this—that since my return to it, from hon. Gentlemen in all quarters of the House, on that side, quite as much as on this, I have met with a kindness and generosity which I have never known equalled and which I can never forget as long as I live.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): I think I shall represent the general feelings of the House if I congratulate them upon the ability and the eloquence of the new recruit who has shown in his maiden speech such obvious capacity both to charm and to instruct in our debates. But, to drop the maiden metaphor, I hope I shall be allowed to say how glad his friends are—and I would say his foes, too, but he has none—to welcome him back to the arena where for so many years he has adorned the proceedings of this House. At the risk of sacrificing any advantage which might be mine by waiting to speak at a later period of the debate, I cannot abstain from the temptation to follow the right hon. Gentleman immediately since he has reminded me of the incident of 1892, when the individual who replied to him on small holdings was one whose name I bear. Indeed, it is no sacrifice on my part to speak thus early, because I have associated with me on this Bill so many colleagues who are far better fitted than I am to deal with matters which may subsequently arise in our debates. But I think that it may not be inconvenient or distasteful to the House if I deal immediately with some of the main criticisms of the right hon. Gentleman speaking on behalf of the Opposition, an of the general arguments for and agains this Bill which have developed, bot within and without the House, since i was introduced. I hope the speech t which we have just listened does no mean that that bench are willing t wound but yet afraid to strike. I trus that the perennial stream of the righ hon. Gentleman's eloquence will not flo for ever between the rustic and the lan which he seeks to reach. I should b very sorry if we had to say in the future—

> "Rusticus expectat dum defluat amni
> at ille
> Labitur et labetur in omne volubil's ævum.'.

But His Majesty's Government have n reason, and no desire, to complain of th general reception which has been accorde to this Bill in almost every quarter the House. It is true that there are few, like the right hon. Gentleman him self, who disbelieve in the demand f small holdings—[Mr. CHAPLIN: "No"] who disbelieve in the unsatisfied dema for small holdings, and who assert th where small holdings are required the can easily be obtained. That is not m experience or my information. But need not fall out over a matter purely opinion. Where the land is not wante this Bill will not operate. Where it ca easily be obtained compulsion will b unnecessary and will not be used. Bu where the land is required and is un obtainable, the compulsion in this Bi will operate, I believe, with perfec justice to those who are constrained t part with the land, and, I hope, with a little special cost as may be to thos who desire, and who, I think, ar entitled to occupy it. I do not think i is necessary or desirable that I shoul follow the right hon. Gentleman int those detailed inquiries as to the just fication of the belief in a land-hunger t which we were invited by distinguishe gentlemen in another place, and whic when supplied to them, caused the such acute annoyance and led to suc profuse arguments, but to no usefu result. I do not think it is necessary t my case that I should prove, what honestly believe, that there is a larg widespread desire and demand for th occupation of small parcels of agricultura land. In my opinion, the Act of 189 has been a ludicrous and pathetic failure [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] I do no expect hon. Gentlemen opposite, especially not the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wimbledon, to agree with me. He would be a most unnatural parent, and a most unusual politician, if he disbelieved in his own measure. [AN HON. MEMBER: It was Collings.] I think a white sheet would be ill-suited either to the character or the record of the right hon. Member for Bordesley. But, believing as I do that this Act has been a failure—mainly from three causes, first, the absence of compulsion; secondly, the want of provisions for hiring; and thirdly, the practical insistence on sale to small holders—I think, taking human nature for what it is, it is most improbable that a man who felt a genuine and ardent desire for the occupation of a small holding should have undertaken what would seem to be the hopeless, almost the ludicrous farce, of appealing to perhaps unfriendly authorities for facilities which he had little chance of securing. I believe, however, that this Bill will act upon the latent and suppressed demand just as the thaw acted upon the frozen horn of Munchausen, and that the silent wish will become the vocal request. If it fails to act in that way—though I, personally, should be deeply disappointed —nobody will be any the worse for it. The county councils will have omitted to act, these terrible Commissioners will have made their inquiries, and will have met with a blank denial of a demand, no action will have been taken, peace and lethargy will rule supreme, depopulation will continue, the land may go out of cultivation, the country gentleman will be undisturbed, and game will be preserved. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] That is a picture which much people draw of what a patriot ought to desire. But I admit that to a Little Englander like myself there is some attraction in the little culture. If we can produce it we will, but we will only provide for it on economic conditions. I have not made, and I shall not make, any proposals for coddling or forcing an industry which cannot economically stand alone without State grants, or, what comes to the same thing as State grants, contributions by the general taxpayer out of duties upon imported produce. If small holdings cannot exist without protection, as the right hon. Gentleman would wish to believe, I would not raise my hand to bring them into being. But seeing, as I do, that the importation of articles of consumption, articles specially fitted for production by small holders, has greatly increased of late years, and seeing that this importation has been growing at increasing and not at decreasing prices, I am driven to the conclusion that the growth of these imports is not owing to the low price of the foreign competitive supply, but from the lack of production at home. And, therefore, surely we have got what any economist would desire—a want which we ourselves can supply if Parliament will provide the vehicle for its production. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley and some of his friends object that our Bill makes no further provision for the sale of small holdings to the occupier. The right hon. Gentleman is perfectly consistent in his remonstrance, because I remember that, during the debates on the Bill of 1892, he took strong objection that the provisions for purchase were illusory and unsatisfactory, owing to the amount of the initial instalment which was demanded from a small holder as soon as the preliminaries had been completed. So much was he impressed with the financial difficulties and disadvantages of purchase in its early stages that he wanted to reduce that initial instalment to so minute a sum as to leave the transaction only one of purchase in name. And in the proposals of the Bill which, I think, he recently introduced into the House the instalment is so small that it was pointed out by some hon. Gentlemen during the First Reading that the occupier would not become the actual owner of the small holding in less than sixty-eight and a-half years.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): After the agreement was signed he would become immediately the absolute owner, subject to the yearly instalments.

*MR. HARCOURT: I know that legally he becomes the owner, but he is not in full possession of the land until he has paid the final instalment. But I admit that, from his past record, the right hon. Gentleman is perfectly entitled to object to our Bill now, just as he objected to the Bill of the Conservative Government fifteen years ago. I will deal with the principle of his objection in a few minutes.

But surely it does not lie in the mouth of those who sit near him, the right hon. Gentlemen the Members for Wimbledon, South Dublin, and the City of London, to urge such objections. They began to develop their interest in the Parliamentary provision of small holdings just on the eve of the general election of 1892. They publicly developed it then. The prospect of a dissolution may have had a stimulating effect on their policy. The country was peppered with their perorations. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wimbledon—he then represented an agricultural constituency—attended all over the country conferences of labourers and farmers, at which he received a good deal of interesting and some startling information. He drew a glowing picture of what his Bill was going to do for the country. At one of those conferences he said its object was by legislation to bring about a wider distribution of the land amongst the people, and to attach more closely to the soil those who extracted from it what it grew, and to whose exertions the wealth it yielded was primarily owing. I hope, Sir, that the right hon. Gentleman's transfer to the suburbs has not killed his ardour for his former friends. At the same conference he expressed no fear of any charge which might be entailed upon the rates by those proposals. He said—

> "A charge of 1d. on the rates would give the county councils of the country a borrowing power for the purposes of the Bill of £10,000,000. [Mr. CHAPLIN: I said that in the House here.] Surely £10,000,000 was sufficient to begin with."

Yes, it seemed amply sufficient a bait for a general election. But how much of that power does the House think has been exercised, and by how many councils in the fifteen years that have elapsed? Exactly three county councils have exercised those powers, and in the aggregate to the amount of £16,000.

MR. CHAPLIN: The number was eight in the first two years. I stated so just now.

*MR. HARCOURT: I know, but I think the right hon. Gentleman was directing his mind, or at all events he was using an extract which was directed to a different set of facts. I was stating the facts as to the amount of money which was raised by loan by the county councils, and I believe the officials who supplied me with the facts are accurately informed. But at some of these conferences the right hon. Gentleman was met with a demand for hiring of small holdings in place of purchase, and I am glad to think that he saw no objection to that in principle. He said at one of these conferences—

> "The object of the Government was to give a poor man the opportunity of hiring a small holding to begin with, and if he was industrious for a certain number of years he was gradually to be able to purchase his holding."

I suppose if he was not industrious he would remain the tenant of the county council for life. But I know that the power of letting under the right hon. Gentleman's Bill was limited to fifteen acres, and I fully admit that the main object of that Bill, though not the whole of it, was the sale of the land to the small holder. He believed that there was a demand for purchase. He asserted that the provisions of his Bill were ample for the purpose, and I have no doubt he thinks so still. He and his Government resisted the blandishments of the Member for Bordesley and the Member for West Birmingham, who wanted to enlarge the scope of that Bill. They maintained that there was plenty of land available at a fair price, that no compulsion was necessary, that they imposed a charge of ten millions on the rates, that the financial provisions were easy and equitable, that the labourer was anxious to devote to purchase the gold which he had hoarded out of his weekly wages; and that if the then Member for Sleaford was allowed his way there was going to be a new heaven and a new earth. But what, then, have they to complain of now? It is true that many of us—I am one of them—believe that that Act has been a failure; I am quite sure that our opinion will have no effect in convincing the right hon. Gentleman of the insufficiency of his measure. If he regards its provisions for purchase as ample and sufficient I fail to see what ground he has for complaint now. We leave the whole of those provisions, for what they are worth, untouched by our proposal. The right hon. Gentleman and his Government thought that compulsion was unnecessary and undesirable for the acquisition of land which was to be sold outright to small holders. Well, I do not say I do not agree with him. No compulsory powers are included in our Bill for such a purpose. Our compulsion is directed to the acquisition of land by local authorities and public bodies, and we leave to the county councils the same powers which the right hon. Gentleman gave them to acquire land by agreement for the purpose of re-sale to small holders. In the same way the right hon. Gentleman thought the proper proportion of the purchase money to be paid immediately by the small holder should be one-fifth, or 20 per cent. of the price. In that figure he was at variance with the Member for Bordesley; but the Government of the day insisted upon their opinion and carried it to the test of a division. Well, again we leave those provisions absolutely untouched. The whole machinery for the purchase of the land by county councils for re-sale is left as it was fifteen years ago. But if hon. Gentlemen opposite believe, as they always have done, that this is all that is required or demanded by the people, surely they ought to be amply satisfied with our non-interference with their methods. It is true that we do nothing to extend or facilitate the machinery for that class of sale. But then the late Government never thought it desirable or necessary to do so in the whole of the ten years that they held office after the passing of that Bill. Our Bill is directed, in amending theirs, to the extension of small holdings by lease and by tenancy, but not by sale, and, from a long experience of the failure of the old method, we believe that it is by these means that the extension will be most easily and most economically made. If I thought that under the Act of 1892 there was likely to be a large amount of purchase by tenants in the future I should be inclined to limit rather than to extend the facilities for that purpose, so convinced am I that, for a great national purpose such as this, tenancy under a public authority, and the acquisition of land by that authority, is the most satisfactory solution of the question. The right hon. Gentleman has gone so fully into the question of the value of ownership of land that he will perhaps forgive me if I follow him in that matter. I think there are many overwhelming reasons against the absolute sale of land to a small holder—land which has been acquired by State credit, and on local security for a definite object and use. That object is to fix upon the soil men who will be devoted to its culture, men who will be entitled to the profits arising from its cultivation and from any improvements which they may make upon the land. They will not, I think, be entitled to those subsidiary and collateral accretions of value which arise from other circumstances unconnected with their occupation and their labour. These values, if any, belong, in my opinion, to the local authorities who will have purchased the land, and who, after eighty years, will come into the absolute fee simple of it at no expense to themselves. That land will be an asset and reward to them for any trouble that they may have been put to in the matter; that land will become an ultimate contributor in relief of the rates of the districts by which it has been purchased. I think the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley has always really been more impressed with the dangers of the absolute sale of land than he has been prepared to admit, because in all his proposals for creating what he chooses to call ownership he has put forward provisions for a grave limitation of that ownership and restrictions upon the fee simple. The rights of sale have been limited; the rights of division and of devise have been restricted; and even the method of enjoyment has been prescribed. Many of these provisions were ultimately incorporated, no doubt at his instance, in the Act of 1892; but, though they probably represented his opinions, they did not reflect the real opinion of the Government which was responsible for that measure on the question of ownership. Sir Richard Webster, then the Attorney-General of the Government, who was assisting the right hon. Gentleman opposite in the conduct of the Bill, used these words—

> "When the purchaser comes with his purchase-money and says 'make me a freeholder,' no restrictions ought to be imposed upon his ownership. It will not do always to keep these small peasant proprietors in leading strings. When the money has been paid, we fail to see why all restrictions on the ownership should not be removed. When the peasant proprietor has become the absolute owner, he should be left unfettered and unshackled to deal with the land as he likes."

Yet the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley and his friends managed to impose many of these restrictions in the Act of 1892. But let the House mark this: they provided at the same time that the price to be paid to the landlord should be the full value of an unlimited freehold. The new owners were to receive and were to be satisfied with something of considerably less value, because of these limitations, than that for which they were compelled to pay. I do not believe that if there were ever to be a large scheme of sale of land to small owners you would be able to maintain those restrictions. Nor do I believe that unless there were to be with it a system of State grants in aid you would ever induce the small holders to purchase on such terms. Therefore, I must be allowed, in arguing against a policy of sale, to assume that eventually it would have to be an absolute sale, and not that travesty of ownership which the right hon. Gentleman the member for Bordesley wishes to set up, and with which he thinks he would be able to satisfy the purchasers. My objections to the sales of small holdings are broadly these. I believe a small freeholder would probably be tempted by a present and immediate profit to sell his newly acquired small holding for purposes other than those of agriculture. That, of course, would be contrary to the policy by which it had been created; and by such sale he might introduce some undesirable and most incongruous elements into the small-holding area which might deteriorate the value of the other holdings. Or he might sell his holding, even for the purposes of agriculture, to some foolish purchaser at a greatly enhanced price, and the new owner would fail altogether to make the holding pay any return upon the purchase-money. Surely it is impolitic to mulct the class of man for whom these holdings are intended by a capital sum, however small, just at the moment when he requires every penny he possesses most urgently for the stocking and cultivation of the land he has entered upon. But there is another objection, slightly further removed, but still, I think, equally vital, and that is that absolute ownership is the "open sesame" to the moneylender and the Gombeen man. Under this system facilities are provided for the creation of mortgages and charges; under this system the astute moneylender or small capitalist may gradually become the landlord of a large number of small holdings and then proceed to let them out at rents screwed up to the uttermos farthing. This has been the actua experience recently of some philanthro pists who have created garden suburb on the basis of sale. They have found themselves compelled to repurchase a increased prices the houses which the themselves had erected in orde to rescue them from the specula tive hands into which they hav fallen, and in order to restart the ex periment upon the proper basis of leasing There are even other dangers whic ought to be foreseen, because the must arise under absolute ownership. may be that at the death of one of the owners there will be a division of th holding by sale in such a way as render the divided remnants incapabl of supporting their new possessors. charges may be created for the widow daughter upon land which is left to a so charges which he may be unable to reali after retaining a bare subsistence for him self and for his family. There is, of cours again, the commoner case of the intesta of the dead owner. After the deat intestate of the ordinary farm labour or small farmer probably no difficult arises. His goods and chattels and h money, if he has any, are easily divide in pretty fair proportion amongst h relatives without much interference fro the Probate Registry. But on the dea of an intestate small owner of lan different conditions altogether apply The State's undertaking the distribution real estate in intestacy brings into oper tion the provisions of the law of prim geniture, and a totally different distrib tion, to the exclusion of all except th eldest of the children. This may lea to a very grave injustice in tho cases which occur perhaps oftener tha we desire to admit, where the eldest, an sometimes the only, child is illegitimat But there is another argument, I thin against individual ownership of particula plots of land. The whole idea of th Bill is that it should be a progressiv ladder of advancement. Nobody su poses that a labourer fresh from th plough would be competent, or willin or financially capable of cultivating holding of fifty acres. The ladder of agr cultural advancement must be ascende rung by rung. But the man who ha proved his capacity and success on fi acres may surely hope at no long interv to progress to a holding of ten, twenty, or thirty acres. But if you compel him to be the purchaser of his first holding, surely you inflict upon him two permanent disadvantages. In the first place, the initial price which you exact may compel him to take a smaller holding than he might otherwise have been able to lease, to stock, and to cultivate. Secondly, you tie him to that unduly small holding until he is able to find some purchaser who will pay him the full price for the land and for all the improvements which he has made on it, in order that he may be able to move into a larger farm which he may then be well able to manage. I want under this Bill to see a constant succession of small men climbing the ladder of self-help and self-reliance, and I believe that for that ladder occupancy is the surest footing. I think there is no advantage either to the country or to the State in a further creation of these freeholds, artificially and elaborately limited, which have been advocated by some hon. Gentlemen opposite. I know some people, as the right hon. Gentleman himself said, attach great importance to the magic of property. But in spite of the interjection of the right hon. Gentleman just now, I do not think that under his latest and limited proposals, or under his Bill, a so-called owner would feel any magic during the course of his whole life. I would put against the magic of property the magic of prosperity. I believe that may be more quickly and more easily attained under tenancy than under ownership. Where prosperity has resulted from occupation, then ownership, if it is true that so much land is available, is not unlikely to be attained where it is desired without the assistance of the State. If we for the present afford opportunity and training for prosperity and for comparative wealth, I think those who have acquired it will probably be able to take care of themselves. But I think hon. Gentlemen opposite would be wise not to press too far their argument in favour of the magic of ownership and the worthlessness of cultivating tenancies. The general principle, as they enunciate it, would apply, of course, to holdings of whatever acreage, whether large or small. There is no magic in the limitation of our Bill to fifty acres. If they believe in that principle, what, may I ask, are they going to say to their farming tenants? Are they going to tell them that they are being ruined by the fact of being tenants? Are they going to suggest to them that they should insist upon the absolute ownership of the farms which they are cultivating? I think their arguments have a wider application than they anticipate, and I think they will do wisely to hesitate before they press them too far, unless, of course, they are prepared to support proposals for the enfranchisement of farm leaseholds all over the country irrespective of size. Some doubt has been expressed by the right hon. Gentleman who preceded me, and by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin on the First Reading, as to the cost and the manner of the equipment of the small holdings. I wish at once to relieve their minds on these matters. The provisions that we have made are precisely those of the Act of 1892, which apply to small holdings leased as well as to small holdings sold. The powers are the same; the terms of the loan for equipment are the same. Under that Act it was applied to every species of equipment—fencing, roads, water-supply, the building of cottages, and the adaptation of buildings. I will tell the House what the right hon. Gentleman said on the question of equipment when he was conducting his Bill in 1892. He said—

> "Where the provision of buildings by the small holder would so encroach upon his capital as seriously to cripple him in the cultivation of his holding, we think it right to make provision by which the local authority may provide buildings themselves as part of the agreement for the sale or letting of the holding; and I do not see how the local authority can escape from the burden of providing the necessary buildings themselves."

I hope that is satisfactory to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, who was much agitated on this subject on the night of the First Reading, and who had not quite recovered from his agitation when he spoke at Exeter a few days later. But as Secretary to the Local Government Board, which the right hon. Gentleman was in the year 1892, I have no doubt that he bore, and that he will still assume, a special responsibility for the loans clauses of the Bill of that year, clauses which must have been decided and advised upon by his own Department. Therefore I shall claim him as a special supporter of these provisions, which, by his advice and authority were included in the Act of 1892, and from which we see no reason to depart to-day. I am quite sure, knowing the right hon. Gentleman as I do, that he would not have assented to provisions which he considered economically unsound, or allow proposals to be put forward which he thought would be administratively ineffective; and least of all would he impose upon county councils, whose champion—["No"]—well, whose defender he has always been, liabilities which he thought too onerous, or which he believed they could not or ought not to perform. Therefore, I am entitled, I think, to assume that he and his friends, or at all events all those who were members of the Government of 1886 to 1892, were and are convinced that county councils can easily and readily fulfil the obligation for providing the equipment for small holdings. Since they acquired those powers we have seen nothing in the years that have elapsed, or in the experience the county councils have since acquired, to make us think that the capacity they then possessed has been impaired. But I would like to guard myself and the House, and, if possible, the public outside, against rushing to the conclusion that this Bill is going to entail or produce enormous building operations all over the country. I hope that people will not believe that my noble friend Lord Carrington is going to wave a wand, and that the land will at once blossom with bricks and mortar. Progress under this Bill, as under most others, is likely to be moderate in pace at first. But we have much leeway to make up. Our first duty, and first necessity, I think, is to attach moderate parcels of land to dwellings which are already in existence, whose occupants are ready and anxious for their acquisition, and much of the moderate equipment that will be required, I think, will be found either by the tenants themselves or by those co-operative and other associations which we are anxious to foster and encourage. It is hopeless, I suppose, to expect that I shall escape from those lurid pictures of inflated loans which are to be inflicted upon hapless county councils for these objects. These are the stalking-horses of debate, and I know them well. They remind me of my old friend of last year—the workman plural voter—who was always exercising votes which he did not possess, and receiving frequent sentences of two years' hard labour for his inadvertence. These things serve to relieve the tedium of the dinner-hour or a dull day in Committee, but they are not business, and I hope the House and the country will not allow themselves to be obsessed by fears of extravagant absurdities which are most unlikely to occur. In relation to the loans which are to be made for this purpose, I should like to point out the great advantage given under our Bill to county councils and to tenants as compared with the Bill of 1892. The term for repayment of the loans for the purchase of land under the Bill of 1892 was fifty years. Under this Bill we extend that term to eighty years. I daresay that previously the shorter term was justified where purchase was only for resale to individuals. But in this case the purchase is for the ultimate benefit of the State as represented by the local authorities. Perhaps the House does not realise, or those unacquainted with actuarial tables do not realise, the enormous saving by the difference between these two terms. I will assume, for the purposes of illustration, that the price of an acre of land is £33 6s. 8d. (one-third of £100). The sinking fund required to repay the purchase money for that acre of land if it had to be repaid in fifty years was an annual payment of 5s. 1d., but if spread over a period of eighty years the annual payment would be only 1s. 7d. It sounds almost too good to be true, but it is a fact. It is one of the beauties and mysteries of compound interest which I decline to explain, but which I gratefully accept. believe that the lowering of the terms of purchase to county councils, and the absence of the initial payment made necessary on resale, will enable the local authority to strike an inclusive and covering rent which their tenants will easily be able to pay, even with a margi over for a reserve fund for contingencies. This has been the experience of those admirable associations formed throughout the country which have found no difficulty in recovering from their tenants on equitable terms instalments in the nature of a reasonable rent to cover purchase, equipment, and management. Of course, the rent of the tenants can be still further reduced if the local authority elects to hire rather than buy the land, for then the tenants would only pay the bare rent, and the sinking fund would not be charged. But then the county council must accept, of course, the contingent liability if they were to surrender the land at the end of their term of lease in a depreciated condition, and they would not come into the ultimate possession of the fee-simple. Of course, it is quite obvious that the landlord is entitled to the fullest possible compensation for any deterioration that has taken place in the land, and the county council, as the intermediate landlord, are in a position, by the conditions of the tenancy, to prevent that deterioration. Then the right hon. Gentleman took some objection to the compulsory hiring clauses in this Bill, although the system had been already authorised.

AN HON. MEMBER: Before the right hon. Gentleman passes to his next point, may I ask upon what rate of interest he based the calculations he has just given?

MR. HARCOURT: The rate of interest is 3½ per cent. The right hon. Gentleman objected to the compulsory hiring clauses in this Bill, although they have been already authorised by both Houses of Parliament for the purposes of allotments. In the First Reading debate, some hon. Member suggested that Parliament had no right to dictate to a man what should be the nature of his investments. I do not think it is necessary to discuss that ethical proposition, because we do not mean to do anything of the kind. *Ex hypothesi*, the investment is already in land, and in nine cases out of ten it is already let to a tenant, and where it is not the landlord (in my experience) heartily wishes it were. Under this Bill there will be no interference with a landlord's freedom, assuming that, under trusts, settlements, and entails, he already has any. He can sell his land subject to a lease to a local authority, just as he could sell his land which is subject to a lease to a private individual. Under the former case, I think he would be likely to get a better price, because, for the first time in his experience, he will be receiving a guaranteed rent for a term of years secured upon the whole of the county rate subject to equitable terms as to improvements and depreciation from a permanently solvent authority, and with power for the resumption of the land whenever he requires it for purposes other than those of agriculture. I do not think these are bad terms for the mortgagee. While I regard these conditions for hiring as necessary to enable us to obtain a fair temporary rent for urban land, while I think they are fair and just in the interest of the expansion of the towns, and equitable both for the tenant and for the community, I do think that we have given to the landlord terms in this matter which any trading company would be glad and grateful to secure. There has been some hostile comment made by the right hon. Gentleman as to the provisions by which the Commissioners under certain circumstances are empowered to supplement the inaction of the county council. I should like to point out that these proceedings, if any, are only to be taken by the authority of the Board of Agriculture, and that this is one of the strongest reasons for not setting up an outside and an independent Commission. The Minister for Agriculture is always a member of the Government, and the Government is, or always ought to be, the servant and creature of the House of Commons. Therefore, this power of supplementary action is really inherent in, and dependent upon, the House of Commons, by whom, under the special provisions of this Bill, the salaries of these Commissioners have to be voted annually. On the First Reading of this Bill the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, with that Party acumen which seldom fails him, thought he had discovered some democratic lapse in our proposals. He insinuated that we attempted to override the carefully considered decision of a county council. I imagine that, on second thoughts, he has discovered that we propose to do nothing of the kind. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wimbledon has already reminded his colleagues that there is nothing new and nothing revolutionary in the proposals we have made. The right hon. Member for South Dublin must have forgotten the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, which he himself conducted through this House in 1899. In that Act precisely similar powers were given, not to one, but to two Departments of State—namely, to the Board of Agriculture and to the Local Government Board, to declare local authorities in default, to appoint officers to do their duties, and to charge the whole expense against the defaulting authority. What was it the right hon. Gentleman said on the First Reading of this Bill? He said—

> "By this Bill a county council, having carefully considered the question, and having done everything which is necessary, short of providing the small holdings, is to be overridden by the central department."

Does the right hon. Gentleman, and do any of his friends, seriously believe that under circumstances in which a county council has seriously considered the matter, they are the least likely to be overridden by a Minister and a Government subject to the control of Parliament? The right hon. Gentleman's premiss makes the suggestion impossible. He assumes that the county council have carefully considered the matter. If they have done so, and if they have decided in the negative, I suppose it is fair to assume they have arrived at their conclusions on the ground that they cannot discover any local demand, or that, if there is a demand, the soil and the surrounding circumstances make it unsuitable for the purpose, or that the value and special circumstances of the land make it impossible for them to buy or hire it at such a price that they could hereafter charge an economic rent. Such grounds for a decision would, of course, be submitted by the county council to the Board of Agriculture, and I can imagine few cases in which such a conclusion reasonably arrived at would ever be regarded as insufficient. Surely this is exactly one of those cases which is met by the power we have given of setting up experimental small holdings by the Board of Agriculture in order to prove their feasibility in a district. But the right hon. Gentleman knows, and knew very well, that these alternative powers of the Board and of the Commissioners were not directed, and were not intended to operate against councils which had carefully considered the question, but are directed against those who for one reason or another have declined altogether carefully to consider the question at all. It is idle to deny that such councils do exist. I do not say that in some cases their inaction has not arisen from perfectly reasonable motives; I believe that many of them share my opinion of the futility of the Act of 1892. I dare say there are others who have discovered that there is no demand or capacity for the absolute purchase of holdings. Again, others may reasonably have been deterred by the cumbrous machinery and the absence of compulsion in the Act of 1892, and a few I fear there are who have deliberately set their faces against small holdings as a policy, and have abstained from any attempt either to discover or to stimulate such a demand. For all these evils our Bill supplies a cure. We give to those county councils a simple, efficient, and economical procedure. Where they are not able, or where they will not attempt to discover a demand, the Commissioners will do the work for them. Even then I hope that these alternative powers of the Commissioners will seldom if ever have to be used, for I believe that in this, as in other parts of the Bill, the compulsion provided will insensibly produce voluntary action. I hope that many now inactive councils will be spurred and encouraged into activit by the great facilities with which we are providing them. It has been said tha bureaucratic interference with a populari elected body is an illiberal proposal; as a general proposition I should not think o disputing that statement. But whe the so-called bureaucratic interferenc depends on a Minister responsible t Parliament I think the case is a littl different, especially where, as I hav shown, there is practically no danger tha these powers will be exercised where th councils are popularly representative a well as popularly elected. But can it b said, is it believed, that to-day most o those councils are representative of thei constituents' opinions on this matter? think not. The possibility in the past o obtaining small holdings has been s slight that county council contests hav not turned to any great degree upon thi question. I hope that one of the effect of this Bill will be in the future t direct the minds both of candidate and electors of those councils mor closely to this matter, and I thin it probable in the future that the count councils will find themselves much mor representative in the matter of smal holdings than they have been in the past This, I think, will be an advantage bot to the councils and to the counties, an I am quite sure it will relieve the righ hon. Gentleman's mind from any uneas ness he might feel as to any interferenc in the future with their more full instructed discretion. Some commen has been made by the right hon. Member for South Dublin as to the alleged inconsistency of treatment between this and the Scottish Bill. I do not myself see or admit that inconsistency, but I must decline altogether to be drawn by the right hon. Gentleman into his border raids. I am quite sure he is too good a sportsman to want to check my run by dragging a Finnan haddock across the scent. I observe, too, on the part of the right hon. Gentleman a desire to revive Lord Randolph Churchill's celebrated phrase, which I think never developed into a policy, of similarity and simultaneity. [AN HON. MEMBER: That was for Ireland.] Yes, the last place to which the right hon. Gentleman would be willing to apply it to-day. As regards Scotland, we are doing what we can, though it is slow work, to attain simultaneity; but, as to similarity, surely it would be absurd if we had applied our Bill to agrarian conditions of soil, custom, and tenure which are wholly dissimilar. But, as I have said, I must decline to be drawn into these extraneous, and, I should think, almost disorderly discussions. My business is to defend and explain to the best of my ability the proposals which we have put forward for the solution of the English problem. I am quite sure the Scottish side will be ably and adequately argued by those in charge of that Bill. I know that there is a feeling abroad, I hope it is not widely diffused, that this Bill gives an insufficient security of tenure to the small holder. I do not myself believe that that will be the case; if I did I should certainly have made other provisions to that end. I believe that the tenure direct from a popularly elected body will in itself be a sufficient security, and even more I think will this be the case when the sub-committee of managers of the small holdings is composed, as we suggest in Clause 31, partly of the parish councillors and of other people intimately acquainted with the needs and requirements of the locality in which they are to act. That certainly is a landlord to which if I were a tenant I should not hesitate to entrust my security; but it should also be observed that under Clause 10 the terms and conditions of the letting of small holdings are to be settled by rules jointly made by the county council and the Board of Agriculture. That, I think, gives a valuable elasticity of adaptation to the varying needs and custom of different parts of the country. I think this is capable, properly handled, of giving considerable additional security, and I am quite sure that it will be more useful than any hide-bound or statutory provision. But the House must not forget that in January, 1909, there will come into operation the Agricultural Holdings Bill of last year, which gives a considerable increase of security to the tenant of any landlord, be he a public body or a private individual. I do not think it will be wise at this moment in England to propose to give to certain selected tenants an additional security which we are not offering to others. But whenever Parliament is able and willing to deal with land tenure generally in England and Wales on more advanced lines, then, of course, all small holders ought to share in the advantages equally with others. I shall be very willing to consider any proposals in this matter which may be put before me. But those proposals must be limited by certain absolute restrictions which I consider of great importance. Any suggestion for further security of tenure should not allow or enable the creation of debts, charges, or mortgages to be secured on the holding, nor should it include any power of settlement or devise such as would enable an expectant heir to raise money on his expectations. Nor should there be such powers of sale or transfer as would create a saleable tenant right, as apart from compensation for his improvements to which he is entitled. These are strict limitations, but as at present advised I think they are essential in order to avoid the evils we have seen elsewhere. On this, as on other questions alluded to, I hope to keep a perfectly open mind for suggestions in Committee, but again with this reservation, that any suggestions which I am favourably to consider must be intended to enlarge the usefulness and strengthen the machinery of the Bill. Any proposal for its reduction or limitation will receive only short shrift at my hands. Though I do not for a moment say that the Bill cannot be improved, I regard the machinery which we have provided as the minimum that is necessary for the purpose, and on that ground I should oppose any proposal to modify or to weaken it. I see the junior Member for the City has on the Paper a

Motion for the rejection of this Bill, but I imagine from the language held by the right hon. Member for Wimbledon that on this occasion the hon. Baronet does not fully represent the views of the Party which he so often leads. I do not believe that it is in his spirit that most of his friends wish to meet the proposals we have put forward—proposals which are, I think, just in conception, reasonable in machinery, and which I am certain will be effective in operation. Provisions are made in this Bill for the furtherance of co-operation in the country. I want to foster co-operation, not only in the country, but in this House. I want to weave every fibre of feeling, every strand of sentiment such as the right hon. Gentleman has alluded to, into a cable which may anchor to the soil the toilers and tillers of our land.

*MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor) said that upon this measure their differences were solely as to the methods to be adopted to bring about the result which they all desired to see. That the depopulation evil had attained very serious dimensions in the last half century everybody in the House would be ready to admit. During the last twenty-five years there had been a reduction of some 30 per cent., or of about 300,000 in the men employed in agricultural pursuits. He thought it was desirable to inquire what were the causes which had induced so many people to leave the country districts. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the attractions of the town and the attraction of the music halls, but he ventured to say that it would be found that the most powerful causes of rural depopulation were pressure from within rather than attractions from without. He ascribed this depopulation principally to two causes—the perfection of agricultural machinery and the laying down of arable land in grass. He found that thirty years ago it required three and a half days labour to turn every acre of grass into hay. Now, owing to the more perfect machinery, a day and a half was sufficient for the same amount of work. This represented a loss to labour of two days for every acre of land, and as there were 7,000,000 acres under grass, the total loss to labour was 14,000,000 days, which at the rate of 300 working days in the year meant the non employment of 50,000 men. Applying the same argument to arable land, of which there were 9,000,000 acres, the loss of another 60,000 men was accounted for. During the same thirty years arable land had diminished by 3,000,000 acres. Calculating the loss to labour for every acre of land put into grass at 15s. per acre, the total loss amounted to £2,250,000, which, divided by the average agriculture wage accounted for another 56,000 men. He held that he had been able to account for 166,000 men, or more than half of the total diminution by two causes which the Bill in no way professed to touch. He further pointed out that that loss of 166,000 men by no means represented the whole loss of agricultural population. They might take it that that number represented, taking the ordinary average family, 830,000 persons, and if they added to that 10 per cent. as representing the tradesmen who served them, the total worked out to about a million persons reduced in the agricultural population of the country by causes which the Bill in no way affected. He was prepared to admit that the proposal before the House to create small holdings by the use of public money was a distinct factor in the problem, but it was a factor which must necessarily be combined with other measures for the improvement of agricultural conditions as a whole. He admitted, and fully believed, that there were certain classes of small holdings which were economically sound, and if attention was paid principally to those classes the movement ought to be made a success. He believed thoroughly in the cases of intensive cultivation of small holdings—that was to say, where small holdings were to be used for market gardening and such like purposes. He also believed that small holdings would be successful where they were occupied by men who had other employments or other trades, but where it was proposed to plant on the land men whose sole occupation was that of a small holder, and whose sole source of revenue was to be derived from a small holding, he thought those men would find it exceedingly difficult to compete with larger farmers who, on account of the size of their farms, were able to apply machinery to a great many operations which the small holder had to do by horses or even by hand labour. He thought other measures were necessary to accompany that attempt to create small holdings, and among the other measures he would take such proposals as dealing vigorously with the question of the burdens on the land. Something must be done to improve the conditions of agriculture generally throughout the country if the creation of small holdings was to be a success. Instead of endeavouring on all possible occasions to increase the burdens on land, surely they would be wise in endeavouring to relieve them somewhat. They must also endeavour to facilitate and cheapen the sale and conveyance of land, which were both hampered at the present moment by most cumbrous machinery. He welcomed with great satisfaction the proposal in the Bill to encourage co-operation. He believed that very much might be done by encouraging a system of co-operation, both for dealing with the sale and purchase of agricultural products and necessities, and also in connection with transport. The question of transport was in itself a field of immense possibility, and they might do a great deal to facilitate the agricultural industry in the country if they would attempt to organise, he would not say transport by railway only—although a great deal might be done in improving that—but by turning to account a system of waggon service, or motor waggon service, throughout the more distant areas of the agricultural industry. Those services would be feeders to the railways, and enable farmers to get their supplies, and also to get rid of their produce, in a more satisfactory manner than they were able to do now. If the movement for small holdings was to succeed they must take care that above all things the holdings did not get split up into too small parts. He did not say that that was likely to be an immediate result, but he would point out that in France, which was so often quoted as a country of small holdings, the community had suffered from agricultural depopulation also. He had been trying to find out what were the causes which in France had contributed to rural depopulation. He had studied with some interest a book written on this subject by a former Prime Minister of France, who attributed the want of success there to the fact that small holdings had become sub-divided owing to the law of the country on the death of the owners. The result was that very small holdings were so thickly studded over the country that there was no work to be found for the people, and they were unable to live on the holdings or to find other means of living in their neighbourhoods. If in this country they dealt only with the subject of intensive cultivation of holdings occupied for the purpose of market gardening, he thought that they would find a limit in their numbers would be absolutely necessary to their success. In districts where special forms of cultivation were taking place—he referred, for example, to the cultivation of celery in Lincolnshire—the growers of these products were already finding the value decreasing owing to the number of people engaged in the same pursuit. He ventured to say that if the areas devoted to special forms of cultivation were to be indefinitely increased in size, the results would no longer be as satisfactory as they were to-day. It was also necessary to take precautions in the case of allotments that they should not fall too easily into the hands of a few individuals. He had found on his own property a rather interesting case bearing on the subject. In a village near which he lived three small fields were let in the shape of allotments. These fields consisted of fifteen and a quarter, seven, and four and a half acres, making in all about twenty-seven acres. He found after some years that ten and a half acres had gradually come into the hands of one man, and that none of the others had an allotment of more than three-quarters of an acre. That man was very industrious and did very well with his land. In the case of one of these small fields, which was originally let as arable, the tenant had turned it down to grass in order to use it for grazing. Not only therefore had the allotment area which was formerly available been concentrated into a very small number of hands, but land which was intended to be used as arable had been turned down to grass, which was less advantageous for the purpose of keeping the people on the soil than land in an arable form. Supposing that small holdings were the most important factor in the problem, he thought it was interesting to ask how far such holdings did already exist in the country. There seemed to be a feeling that the number was very small as compared with the number in other countries. The number of small holdings of from one to fifty acres in this country was 67 per cent. of the whole. The number of small holdings in Germany of from one-fortieth of an acre to fifty acres was 94 per cent of the whole. But a fortieth was a very moderate size for a small allotment, and if they took into consideration the difference which this involved they found that the percentage in Germany corresponded to 90 per cent in England. In creating small holdings it was important to bear in mind that there would be very little chance of success if it was attempted to make them on land which had already been thrown out of cultivation because it did not pay in the past. It was quite evident that when they were formed it should be done on good land, and under favourable conditions. When the local authority took land it would have to be good land, and they would have to pay the landlord what would be a fair rent. He would assume for the sake of argument that the landlord now got £1 per acre. The local authority had to equip the holdings with a variety of buildings, provide fencing, and so forth. He ventured to think that before the small holder got in, his rent would be double that which the landlord had been getting. If the small holder could afford to pay something like double the rent which the landlords now received, why had not landlords from economic and selfish reasons created these small holdings? It was in some cases because they had not the money, but he thought that in a great many more cases it was because they did not believe that these holdings were economically sound, and that they would be taken up and occupied. But whether or not the landlords were right in so thinking, if public bodies were to step in where landlords feared to tread, there was not the slightest doubt that the public bodies which did the work must, to put it in the mildest way, face the possibility of considerable failure. It seemed to him that there could be no absolute certainty of success. There would be many cases of success, and many cases of failure. There were three points which stood out quite plainly. One was that the creation of small holdings was not the only factor in the problem; the second was that the creation of small holdings was distinctly experimental; and the third was that the experiment was going to be tried in the interest of the State. But who was to pay for the failures? Not the State, according to the Bill. The first to pay would be the tenant farmers now in occupation of the land. That fixity of tenure, which the Government was so anxious to give them last year, was now to be taken away. They must either lose possibly the best field on the farm or throw up their farms altogether and go elsewhere. It might be said that there were plenty of farms open to them, but he ventured to think that that was entirely against the spirit which animated hon. Gentlemen opposite last year when they argued that the farmer should have fixity of tenure. The second class to pay for the experiment would be the landlords, whose land would be returned to them in case of failure. He might be required to pay compensation for the improvements made in equipping the land for small holdings; and yet his only course, after the failure of the small holding, would be to reconvert the land into a large farm, on which the "improvements" would be an encumbrance. If the scheme were a success, it was quite evident that the local authority would demand at the end of the fourteen years that the lease should be renewed; but if they were a failure the land would be naturally abandoned by the local authority. Under Clause 30, subsection (2), the compensation to be paid by the landlord to a county council for improvements was to depend on the decision of the arbiter or valuer. But it was quite possible that the valuer would say that the improvements, such as buildings and fences, ought to be paid for by the landlord. He ventured to think that the very fact that the land had been given up because the scheme of small holdings was a failure, would force the landlord to turn his land again into big farms, and that the buildings and fences would no longer be improvements, and, therefore, the landlords would be in the position of having to pay for improvements which were made for one purpose, but which were no improvements for another purpose. In addition to that there was the question of compensation for deterioration of the land under the small holdings. He, however, understood from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman that that point was satisfactorily dealt with in other sections of the Bill. He would like to say that where the valuer went so far as to say that those improvements on the small holdings were not improvements in the real sense of the word, and where, therefore, the landlord should not be called upon to pay compensation to the county council for buildings and fences, even then the landlord would, if he wanted to turn the land again into a large farm, be compelled to remove the buildings and fences, and the cost of that would be no small amount. The great difficulty in regard to the Bill was the question of forced hiring. There was no objection on the part of landlords to hiring by agreement; but if compulsion was to be applied at all it could only be rationally and justly applied in the shape of purchase. Any system of forced hiring would be neither satisfactory nor just. The right hon. Gentleman said that they ought not to use the word "confiscation." He was quite willing to admit that the application of the word "confiscation" was not terminologically exact; but he preferred confiscation to a system of forced hiring with the ultimate risks it involved. The whole principle of compulsory hiring had been strongly condemned by the Departmental Committee as leading to the dual ownership which had been so detrimental to agricultural prosperity in Ireland. There was a third class of people who were to be called upon to pay the expense of this experiment, and that was the ratepayers. It seemed to him that under Clause 30, subsection (2), it was conceivable that a valuer who took a favourable view of the landlord's interest might at the end of a lease not condemn the landlord to pay any compensation for improvements, on the ground that the improvements were not valuable for the purposes of a big farm, and the county council would then have to pay the compensation to the small holders at market garden rates and receive nothing in return. That would saddle the ratepayers with a very serious burden. He regretted most sincerely that the right hon. Gentleman objected so much to making the small holders the owners of their holdings. He could not understand how that objection arose. He himself believed in the saying that if you gave a man the ownership of a rock he would make it garden. He had always been of opinion that the soil in this country was held in too few hands, and he would like to see the number of owners of land considerably increased. The right hon. Gentleman had said that if the land became the absolute property of a small holder it might be used for some other purpose than agriculture, such, he supposed, as the manufacture of some disagreeable chemicals or a slaughter-house. But in that case the neighbours would have their remedy in complaining of that as a nuisance. And in the case of tenants dying intestate, he could not see why a small holding could not be quite as saleable as any other form of property. The best argument against purchase was that the man who wished a small holding would have to sink his capital in purchase. Again, if there was any desire on the part of big farmers to become owners of their farms, and be put in the same position as the small holders, he did not think that the landlords would by any means stand in their way. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that he would welcome compulsion if applied to himself; but from his knowledge of the right hon. Gentleman as a neighbour he believed that no compulsion was necessary to make him do what he believed to be right. He could not help thinking that if the right hon. Gentleman had not already created small holdings, it was because he was not convinced of their economic soundness. As to Clause 19, which dealt with building on allotments, he asked whether under that provision the local authority could acquire a piece of land for allotments and then erect a number of cottages for the purpose of forming a village? Clause 24 provided for a revaluation of the rents every fourteen years, but he thought that that provision would encourage bad farming. Then, in the case of home farms in the hands of the landlord, could those be touched under the Bill? That was a matter which interested him personally, because he had a very considerable amount of land in his own hands for the purpose of making agricultural experiments, which might take from seven to ten years to carry out. If that land was taken from him the results of his experiments would be lost, and a loss might accrue to the community at large. There would be under the Bill failures as well as successes, and the public generally, and not a particular class, should pay for those failures.

MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.) said he was exceedingly anxious that small holdings should be set up. He thought that the Act of 1892 had considerably handicapped small holdings Under that Act there was no compulsion, and a person who wanted to buy land had to put down a large sum by way of deposit. The Worcester County Council was the only one which had succeeded under that Act. That county council took up the matter in a patriotic way and insisted on carrying it through. Their example should be followed by others. As to the contention of the Opposition that nobody wanted small holdings and allotments, his experience had proved to him that that demand did in reality exist. What they had to do was to make a bridge between the people who wanted to get on the land and the land which they wanted to get. Therefore he put in the forefront of the Bill the appointment of the Commission. He had always felt that the village people did not actually know whether they could get land or not. Inquiries had been made in the villages as to whether there was a demand for small holdings and allotments. Those inquiries had been directed to the parish council, and the reply usually was that the council did not know of any such demand. No doubt that was true, because the members of the council were mostly farmers, and their labourers would be very reluctant to tell their employers that they were looking out for allotments. But if once it was brought home to the villagers that they were likely to get allotments there would be heard a great deal more about their being wanted. It must either be left to the natural growth of the desire for allotments or additional pressure must be brought to bear by the appointment of the proposed Commission. The right hon. Member for Bordesley had made a striking analogy between the progress of education and the progress of these small holdings, and had pointed out that there would have been no public education if it had not been made a national matter; but so soon as they appointed school boards, applied compulsion, and gave free education, they made education flourish. Then they came to the question of whether the small holders were to be tenants or owners. The hon. Member for Windsor had said that he did not see why the Government should object to ownership ; but the reasons given b the right hon. Member for Rossendal were perfectly satisfactory. The difficulty was that if the small owne acquired his land and the neighbourin landlord wanted to buy it the smal holder would get no peace. In tha way they would see the allotments an small holdings going back again int the hands of the landlord. He wa strongly in favour of tenancy as again ownership, but he wanted tenanc under which a man would have securit in his holding. There was a great de of sentiment in these matters, and unles they could tell a man definitely an accurately that he was going to have th land so long as he observed the condition of his tenancy, he did not think the would produce a feeling of satisfactio and contentment. They had a ver good precedent in the Scottish Crofter Act, which had proved a magnifice success, and was a strong argument i favour of tenancy instead of ownershi When that Act was set side by side wi the Act of 1892 which established own ship they must conclude that the balan of advantage was certainly on the side tenancy. But if they were to ha tenancies they ought to have them the same terms as the Scottish crofte It had been said that fixity of tenu was in the nature of dual ownershi because it gave the right of sale. I would give the small holder t power, which the Scottish crofter had, bequeath his interest in the land to a one person. That was an arrangeme known in many businesses, and would b perfectly satisfactory. If they adopte that principle it would go a long wa towards making the Bill a succes because if the boys who were growi up knew they were going to have share in the land, there could be n greater incentive to make them conte to stay on the land. How many Members who represented country constit encies were aware that a great part their correspondence came from paren asking them to try and get situations town for their children ? They must g rid of all that. They heard a great de of the necessity of giving full and fa compensation for the land that w taken, but he was quite sure that t experience of most Members was th when land was taken by a public authori from a private individual the priva individual generally got more than the land was worth. He was much disappointed that, although in the hiring clause there was a provision that the valuer should take into account the assessment of the land for the rates, there was no such provision in the purchase clause. They ought to be very careful to see that a proper assessment was taken, and then when the valuer had to fix the price for the land to be taken he would be able to see the amount at which it was assessed, and take that into account in both cases. If that provision in the Bill led, as he hoped it would, to the adoption of the principle of assessing land at the real capital value, there would be less difficulty in providing for the proper purchase price being given. He saw a Motion on the Paper regretting that a Valuation Bill was not passed at the same time as this Bill. He thought that if this Bill was passed it would give an impetus to a Valuation Bill, and land would be purchased in a more satisfactory manner. It was clear that the House was going to give the Bill a Second Reading, and that the difficulty would come when they got into Committee. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give careful attention to the suggestions regarding security of tenure. He thought that by passing this Bill they would do something to get the people more closely in touch with the land, and in that way greater prosperity would be secured for them.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said it was rather a disagreeable thing for one who had been a believer in small holdings all his life to have to say plainly and frankly that in his opinion the objections to the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman were so strong that it was all he could do to bring himself to vote for the Second Reading. His right hon. friend the Member for Wimbledon had already indicated the line which their action would take, but that line when taken could not remove the two objections which he thought were inherent in the Bill. One was the system of hiring. He objected to the hiring of the land instead of purchase, and also to the overriding of the decision of the county councils. The idea was that county councils, when elected, should be able to deal with things with which they were intimately acquainted. He had no doubt whatever that the various county councils were acquainted with the demand for small holdings in the district they represented. The system of small holdings was no new idea. It had been carried on more or less for many years past, and the fact that it had not been successful in many cases had not been the fault of those who let the small holdings, but of the state of agriculture generally, or of the individuals who occupied the holdings. So much had it been in his mind that the moment he became possessed of the little land he had, and which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would leave him, it was his idea at once to create a few small holdings with which he could experiment. One would have thought that his property, being within twelve miles of Whitechapel, would have been singularly adapted to small holdings, having regard to the fact that it was close to a good market. But he regretted to say that except in the case where the occupier had an adjunct business the experiment had seldom succeeded. He had one case in his mind. When he anxiously inquired of his agent on the approach of rent day what arrears there were, he was told that the only tenant in arrear was a small holder whom he himself had deliberately chosen for the holding—a man whose rent had been twice wiped off in the hope that he would finally succeed. The demand for small holdings was limited to the number of men who believed they were going to make a living out of them, and even that number must be again diminished by those who, after trying it for a short time, gave it up. An hon. Member opposite had recently graphically described how the small holder began with a pig, and how he bred more pigs, and so went on to prosperity. But he would point out that the loss of the mother pig by death disposed of all chance of success of the small holder, and that then the hat went round to the other farmers to enable him to get another pig. Another point was this: were owners of land adjoining large centres of population to be subjected to the experiment of providing small holdings for those in the towns who wished to have them? Was compulsion to be placed upon the landlord to supply small holdings for those who came from a distance or only those in the locality? Because if it was, that opened up rather a dark prospect so far as he was concerned. There were 5,000,000 of people in London, and if he was to be compelled to divide his land up into 5,000,000 small holdings there would be a very poor chance for him as well as the 5,000,000 of people who were to get the holdings. If therefore anybody who came out of the towns could compulsorily hire a small holding he would say that the landlord of the estate was going to be subjected to very unfair pressure. He had a list of twenty-three small holdings in a largish estate in the North. The holdings varied from twelve acres down to three; but out of those successful holders there was not one who had not an adjunct business which enabled him to make his living and pay his rent. If they deprived these small holders of their other businesses he doubted whether they would ever make such a profit as would enable them to pay their rent. Then with regard to the cost of the equipment of the land. He put the minimum cost for the equipment of five acres of land at £500, taking the cost of the house at £200, the outbuildings £100, and the fences, water supply, roads, &c., £200. The tenant would find himself in such a position that he would have to pay more rent than those around him, and he would be utterly unable to meet the charges. His hon. friend had alluded to the very important point of carving a piece out of a tenant farmer's land—perhaps a man who held 500 or 600 acres—in order to induce men to take up ten, fifteen, twenty, or thirty acres of land. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman said there was a clause in the Bill which gave compensation to that tenant farmer for the loss of his land. There were many farmers holding 400 or 500 acres who were just able to make a margin of profit from probably some few acres suited to small culture; and if they deprived such a farmer of that land which paid and his chance of making a small margin of profit, was no compensation at all to be paid to him? These were a few objections he had to the Bill. His main objections were to compulsory hiring instead of compulsory purchase, and the overriding of the decisions of the county councils by Commissioners sent down from London. He knew perfectly well that those Commissioners would be gentlemen admirably suited to their work, and that they would endeavour to be strictly impartial; but he did not think it was a right principle to override those who had been elected by the ratepayers of the county, who would have to bear the brunt of the burden. He was sorry to say a word against any system of small holdings, for he had always cherished the belief that much might be done by it, but he thought that the Bill was disfigured by these blots, and it would be with the greatest difficulty that he could bring himself to vote in favour of the measure.

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said he was not sure that the argument of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was conclusive against the possibility of small holdings being made a success. The right hon. Member had referred to one of those well-meant efforts which had been made in the past by which casual and isolated small holdings had been created. It seemed to him that the possibility of the success of small holdings rested on the foundation of the small holders acting on co-operative principles. Until the system of cultivation was improved, until they had learned to join together for co-operative marketing and the co-operative purchasing of manure and so forth, he did not think the small holders were likely to do very well. They were really approaching the question in a new way; theywere trying to set their house in order; they were looking to what had been done abroad, in Denmark and Belgium, for instance, countries that had no protective tariff, in order to see whether they could bring about at home similar results by similar methods. From the point of view of a landowner, he could not help regarding the Bill as adequate for its purpose, and it had the additional advantage of being unprovocative of those on whose toes it might tread. The depopulation of the country districts was becoming so serious that, unless something was done they would really be face to face with a situation in which the whole agricultural fabric must collapse. There could be no doubt in the minds of those who had made some experiment in the matter as to the reality of the demand for small holdings. Anybody who cut up a farm for the purpose of small holdings would be overwhelmed with applications from people all over the country, who were only too anxious for an opportunity to make a living on the land. It was no merely the best land they wanted; small holders positively applied for poor land, the main object being to get land cheaply, and not to acquire good land at a high price. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wimbledon had referred to the supply of food to this country in time of war; well, let them turn their attention to the establishment of small holdings. He thought the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had been fortunate in this connection—in appointing two local authorities to deal with the problem, because there was in reality a double problem to solve. There was in the first place the actual colonisation of the land, forming men into colonies where the co-operative principle might be adopted and developed. There was also the village problem, that of giving the labourer who had a cottage in the village some share in the land. It was obvious that the parish council were much better judges of that subordinate and secondary object than the county council could possibly be, and he thought it very fortunate that the right hon. Gentleman had called both bodies to his assistance. It seemed to him that the sanction which the Bill received from the Board of Agriculture carefully blended centralisation and local autonomy. He could not understand the position of any landlord who regarded the compulsory powers which a local authority might exercise, or the compulsion which the Board of Agriculture might bring to bear upon refractory local authorities, as in the least dangerous to the interests of property. He congratulated his right hon. friend on the almost uncanny ingenuity with which he had overcome the extremely difficult question of the future value of the land. His proposal that landowners should be able to take back the land for building or industrial purposes overcame one of the most serious difficulties which local authorities had to contend with, because it must be obvious to anyone that proximity to a market, to a centre of population, was one of the strongest reasons for selecting a site for small holdings, and if the local authority had to consider the price which they would have to pay for the prospective building value, they would in many cases be obliged to go further away from the centre of population, which would increase the difficulty of communication between the colony and the town, which would be the natural market. The fact was that the Bill would not be challenged on the principles which it contained, but upon the application of those principles, and it was in that respect that he thought they ought to turn their attention a little more closely to some of the details of the measure. He himself was absolutely sanguine of the success of the undertaking. He knew that there were many individuals who were not by any means hostile to the general principle of the Bill, and who wished it well, but who did not share his optimism. He knew there would be considerable difficulties to overcome; there were many prejudices to conquer before a successful solution could be found. They would be told, and he thought with truth, that the essential thing for the success of small holdings was that the small holder should be able to compete successfully with the foreigner in the market. It would be pointed out, and again he thought with truth, that it was not sufficient for the small holder to compete successfully in perishable articles, such as eggs and milk alone, without which a small holding would not have any economic life, but he must be able to compete in the market against the foreign producer of almost every kind of agricultural produce, with the exception, perhaps, of corn and meat. They would be told that one of the great difficulties in the way of doing that was the burdens which at present rested upon the land. Rates, taxes, and tithes no doubt pressed very heavily upon all land, and would not press any less heavily upon the small holder. Then there was the question of railway rates. They would be told how difficult it was for the small holder or individual farmer to get anything like the terms from railway companies which foreign producers on a large scale were able to obtain. Then allusion would be made to the injustice occasioned to the tenant turned out on to his small holding without the provision of cottages, and without education in a better form of culture. He thought that these were all real difficulties which would have to be met; and what he wanted to urge upon the Government was that they should treat very seriously the powers taken under Clause 14, by which the Board of Agriculture could take land voluntarily for the purpose of making experiments. Before the Board of Agriculture was able to bring pressure to bear on the local authority, it would have to do two things. In the first place, it would have to learn a great deal, and in the second place it would have to demonstrate. He desired to speak with great respect of the Board of Agriculture, but he claimed that at present there was no authoritative or official view as to the best method of running the small holdings system. They would have to learn, and they would have to demonstrate. He would like to see the Board of Agriculture buy a considerable area of land, and put up small holdings, selecting the small holders whom they placed on the land. When they had done that they would be able to study the best method of co-operation. When they had done that they would be able to discover the best methods for production and purchase and cultivation. A great deal depended upon the way small holdings were worked. A great many people thought that if they could only get on the land they would be sure to succeed, but in practice he was afraid that having once failed at other trades they would not be likely to make a success of agriculture. Whatever his right hon. friend might say as to the country not being willing to go in for bricks and mortar, unless they were able to provide better housing accommodation they would not get very far in the direction of interesting small holders in the soil. In regard to the provision of cottages some system of standardisation would do much towards reducing the price, and a great advance must be made in that direction. As to half-timers it had been stated that it was impossible for a small holder to make a living without some other business. Some experiment on the line of half-timers would not be a bad idea in connection with a small colony of small holders, and that was what he hoped the Government would do. That would not preclude local authorities from making a start on their own account, but knowing as he did their distrust and doubt as to the economic success of this scheme, and seeing the position they occupied as trustees of public money, he thought it was very desirable that the Board of Agriculture, should be in a position to demonstrate conclusively both to local authorities and to individual landowners the feasibility of the scheme now proposed. He did not think it was possible to exaggerate the serious character of the proposals they were discussing. If they were successful they would open up an entirely new era in the agricultural life of the country. He hoped they would be careful to proceed upon such lines as would ensure that the start they were now making would not be discredited by anything like a failure. The spectacle of rural life in England at the present time could only be properly described as deplorable. The land of England did not afford the means of livelihood to the cultivator of the soil, nor did it pay the landowner. The system of agriculture was one which neglected the profitable for the traditional, and they had hardly made any advance in the general conception of agriculture since the days of the Corn Laws. Landlords had tried to meet the difficulty by increasing the size of their holdings and making the same buildings do the work for a larger area. The farmer, whose principal concern was with the weekly pay sheet, had gradually converted arable into pasture land. The result was that agriculture was in a most depressed condition, the land did not produce enough to carry the tenant, the farmer and the landlord, landowners were impoverished, the demand for labour was diminishing, and the rural exodus went on. The reason was that the land was under two classes — one class rich enough to regard more the pleasure to be derived from an estate than its productivity, and the other a class too small and with insufficient capital to make experiments. Unless they put their house in order there was not much hope for agriculture in the future. If Denmark had not put their house in order thirty or forty years ago when they were faced with the same agricultural problems, that country would have been ruined. This country in the past had been rich enough to treat agriculture with disregard and contempt. He did not believe there was anything in the soil or climate, or in the character of the rural population of England which differentiated them from the experience of Northern Europe. If they could make small holdings a success in Denmark and Belgium, why could they not do it in this country? The Bill contained the sort of compulsion and encouragement which were needed, and he believed it proceeded on the right lines and would meet with success. If it did succeed it would be enormously to the advantage not only of the peasantry who lived upon the soil, but of the landowner and the community as a whole.

*SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD (Lincolnshire, Brigg) said he wished to preface his remarks by an appeal to the House to extend to him that kindness and consideration which was invariably shown to those hon. Members who rose to address the House for the first time. As a representative of a large agricultural constituency, where there was a very real and earnest desire for small holdings, he was the last to offer to this measure any hostility whatsoever. In the Isle of Axholme and in the district round the town of Boston, which were not in his constituency, there was absolute proof of the success of small holdings. He thought, however, that the Bill was open to criticism because it might create an artificial demand for these holdings and plunge the county councils into experiments of which he doubted the economic soundness, and the cost of which in the end the ratepayers would have to bear. Surely the ratepayers had a right to use their own discretion through their representatives on the county council as to the risk they should incur in making these experiments. If the experiments were to be made by the county councils or in co operation with credit banks they would be more fittingly undertaken by the Board of Agriculture at the expense of the taxpayer than by the county councils at the expense of the ratepayer. On a neighbouring estate to his own the system of credit banks has proved an enormous success. He knew a man who started life as a labourer and by the aid of a credit bank he became first a small holder and then a large farmer. Before entering any further into details he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman to whom buildings, erected on land compulsorily hired, would belong when the term of hiring ended. Would they belong to the county council, or would the landlord have to buy at a valuation the buildings erected upon land compulsorily hired from him? It would be a little hard if the landlord had to take over buildings which were likely to prove of absolutely no value to him. Was the large farmer who was cultivating a large acreage and making it pay, whose land was taken by the county council for the purposes of the Act, to be compensated as well as the landlord? If so, compensation would reach a very large sum indeed. Let them take the case of a large sheep or cattle breeder. If for some reason it should seem fit to the local authority to take away some of his land, they might very easily destroy the whole of that farm and deprive the farmer of his livelihood in that district. They might require that man's land merely from the fact that he happened to be a large farmer, or owing to his having improved the land of that farm they might cast longing and envious eyes upon the same and determine to seize it. There was a large farmer in North Lincolnshire, a gentleman named Dudding, who sold every year the produce of his flocks, which were sent to nearly every country in the world. Would it be possible for the county council to take part of Mr. Dudding's land, which he was able to keep in such a flourishing condition, and destroy his livelihood in that district? He was perfectly certain that no local authority in the district would ever want to take away land from such a man, but there remained the Commissioners representing the Board of Agriculture in London who were to employ towards the local authority the method usually employed by the gipsy horse coper. They were there with the express object of giving ginger to the local authority. Some clause should be inserted in the Bill to safeguard the interests of gentlemen like Mr. Dudding. The House of Commons ought to be most careful in dealing with Land Bills to see that they did not destroy or interfere with large farms carried on by large breeders. He thought they ought to be very careful how they interfered to break up large farms which were now being carried on successfully. In the case of a large breeder of cattle, the county council, by taking away from him some of his land, might destroy the value of the whole of his farm and destroy his livelihood in that district. He wished to know who proposed to do the drainage for the small holder. Would it be the small holder himself, the local authority, or the landlord? Who would provide the fencing, look after and superintend the proper farming of the land, and see that everything was not taken out of the land and nothing put in? Who, in short, would see to it that the tenant was not depreciating either his land or his buildings? He doubted whether the friendly feeling which so happily did exist between landlords and tenants would be encouraged by the measure. No longer would a helping hand in the way of abatement of rent be extended to the tenant; no longer would a helping hand in the way of fencing be allowed him. All sentiment would be done away with when a stranger was forced on the land. There were also many local considerations which were bound to have a large influence in those localities. In Lincolnshire there was what is known as "warping." That cost about £80 per acre. Who was going to do the warping in future? Was it the landlord or the local authority? If the landlord, why should he do it when he knew very well that after improving the land it would be very likely seized upon by the local authority for compulsory hire or compulsory purchase? The Bill might be looked upon as an experiment. They all felt it was one which should be made. Their only object, after all, was to ameliorate the condition of a large number of their fellow subjects and to bring more people on to the land, or if not that, to retain more people in the rural districts and to increase the produce of the soil. If success was to ensue from this measure nothing would prejudice it more than that one side should endeavour to make political capital out of it while it lasted. On the other hand, he thought both sides should co-operate so as to be able to bring to a happy conclusion this very great question. There was, however, a Bill now before the House promoted by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bordesley division, agreeing in the main principles with this measure but differing from it in the fact that no compulsory powers were called to their aid at all, but at the same time allowing facilities to be given to the small holder to purchase his holding and become the owner. He knew that the First Commissioner of Works had used very lucid arguments against peasant proprietorships in England, but surely a man had more pleasure and incentive in working when he knew that the land he was trying to improve would in the end become his own. Under the hiring system, as proposed in this measure, not a rood of land would ever come to the tiller of the soil, who had sweated so long to improve it. The county council could secure fixity of tenure, but no such fixity of tenure would ever be so effective as the sense of entire ownership. How could they expect that a small holder could make his holding pay when they considered what he had to expend before he could place a halfpenny in his own pocket? He had his rent, repayment of expenses to the local authority, cost of equipment, and had also to be prepared to make good the loss resulting from bad seasons. Did the Government say that the landlord was to be docked of the price that should be paid to him by the local authority, so that the local authority and the tenant might be insured against the cost they had made? The examples of France, Germany and Denmark had been brought forward and compared with our own system of land tenure. In the case of Denmark the success of the people was due to the purchase of their small holdings, and not to compulsory hiring. It was invidious to compare foreign countries with our own, because differences in climate and in individual habits could not be reconciled, nor could the conditions under which they laboured be compared with our own, because they had different tariffs from our own. As was aptly remarked in *The Times* the other day—

> "A very common error is to attribute greater success to Danish than to British farming. Only those acquainted with the actual condition of things in the two countries can possibly entertain this idea. Compared with what it once was, Danish farming has undoubtedly improved and become more prosperous; but the *Danish standard of prosperity is very different from ours*, and even our agricultural labourers would not envy the lot of the average Danish small farmer. There is a striking difference between the two peoples in the bare necessities of life. What the Danish small farmers can and do live on and are satisfied with would be sneered at by the humblest labourer in this country. There is a good deal of truth in the assertion of a recent writer on the subject that 'the produce which the Danish small farmer grows on his holding is too good to be used as his own food, so he sells it and buys cheaper food. What the holder in this country grows is not good enough for him, so he sells it at a low price and buys more expensive commodities to feed himself and his family.'"

In conclusion he said he differed entirely from the First Commissioner of Works on the subject of small allotments. He had had a good deal of experience on his own estate in regard to small allotments, and he was perfectly certain that no single man, if he had got other work to do, could find it lucrative to have a small allotment of more than one acre. He had never found a man who was able to cultivate, and to make it a lucrative business as well, more than one acre at a time, if he had not other work to do besides. He differed entirely from the hon. Member who thought there would be an enormous demand for small allotments of five acres. He hoped, however, that the question would now be thrashed out, that a happy conclusion would be reached, and that the depopulation of the rural districts would cease altogether. He thanked the House for the indulgence accorded to him in addressing them for the first time.

MR. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes) congratulated the First Commissioner of Works on the fact that this Bill had been brought forward. He thought it was a reasonable and practical measure, and that it would go a long way to satisfy the land hunger and the demand for small holdings which existed in many districts. The Bill was distinct from all former measures of the kind. All previous Acts of Parliament dealing with the acquisition of land had been permissive, and that explained the small extent to which advantage had been taken of them. This Bill was mandatory. It made it compulsory on the local authorities to consider the needs and the interests of their districts in relation to allotments and small holdings. It practically made the creation of small holdings and allotments as much a normal function of the local authority as the repair of roads and the provision of education. For the first time they were making it a part of the duty of a Government Department to see that the local authority made a provision of land and small holdings. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would be disposed to agree with him that £100,000 was rather a small sum with which to start the scheme, and he hoped that it was only an earnest of what would be done in future years. He was very glad indeed to welcome that part of the Bill which provided for co-operation between the Board of Agriculture and the local authority. The more one studied the question the more one realised the variation of the conditions of agriculture in various parts of the country. He was certain that in some districts there would be a demand for grass land, in other districts a demand for corn land, in other districts a demand for land on which to grow fruit and vegetables, and in still other cases a demand for a small holding by a man who spent the winter in working in the woods to supplement what he derived from his small holding. Therefore, the county council, with the security of the county rates, must make provision for these different kinds of small holdings, and they must have the assistance of the parish council, who had an intimate knowledge of the needs of their own district and the character of the applicants. He believed that the latter was a very important point. The provision which excited the most criticism was that giving power to the Commissioners, in the last resort, to take over the powers of the county council, and provide the necessary allotments, charging the cost to the county council. That was a power which he imagined would be very rarely exercised, but its existence would act as a stimulus to the local authority to do the work themselves rather than to be set aside by the Commissioners. Moreover, it was simply securing to the Board of Agricultural the same kind of power which the Local Government Board already possessed to supply water and drainage to a district when the local authority neglected its duty. In the latter case it could only be done after full public inquiry, at which the local authority was represented; in the former case there would be full public inquiry as to whether there was a demand for small holdings, whether that demand could be reasonably satisfied and whether the character of the tenants was satisfactory. He thought that if the local authority, when all the preliminary inquiries were made, still refused to acquire the land for small holdings and allotments, there would be a very strong case for the Agricultural Department taking over the powers of the local authority. The need of that provision would be acknowledged by all who had had experience of the working of the Act of 1892. He knew of a case where there was a reasonable demand for allotments and a number of men willing to take them up, but the scheme was stopped for two reasons: first, there was a strong bias in the Act of 1892 in favour of the landlord, while the tenants did not wish to buy, but to hire; and, secondly, if the county council wanted to buy, the price asked for the land was far too high. He thought that compulsory powers for the acquisition of land for small holdings and allotments were necessary. One reason was that prohibitive prices were asked by many landlords. Hon. Members opposite always spoke as if every landlord was a resident on his own estate. He would be the last to deny that the landlords of England had as much public spirit as any other class, but compulsory powers for purchase or hiring were necessary to deal with investment land, with land of absentee proprietors, with land belonging to Universities, colleges, and charities, the agents managing these estates being always reluctant to sell land for allotments. The power under the Act of 1894, which enabled parish councils to hire land, had worked exceedingly well. 20,000 acres had been obtained, and less than 300 by compulsion. The mere fact that compulsory powers were in the Act would induce the hard landlords, and more particularly agents, to come to an agreement to let their land. He quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that there was a great demand for land with proper security of tenure, compensation for improvements, and a fair rent. His chief objection to purchase was that he did not want to tie a man down all his life to three or four acres. His experience was that a man who got three or four acres of land at a fair rent, provided he was sober, industrious, and hard working, would soon want to enlarge his holding to ten acres, and ten years afterwards he would want a still larger holding. To compel him to purchase three or four acres would prevent him making any advance up the ladder of prosperity. He himself had a tenant who had started with three acres, next he obtained ten acres, and lately he had taken a farm of 100 acres. He insisted that they ought not to put any kind of check whatever on that kind of advance from the position of a wage-earning agricultural labourer to that of a farmer. He believed that there would be complete security of tenure of land held from the county council. There would be no desire to turn out a tenant who was working his land well. A strong public feeling would be excited against a county council if a tenant of a small holding was evicted for any trifling reason, provided the man was cultivating the land in a proper manner. As to the finance of the Bill, he knew that the right hon. Gentleman was providing for a Treasury Grant for the preliminary expenses. It was of vital importance in starting a scheme of this sort that the first cost should be as low as possible. Land must be obtained at the fair agricultural value and the difference between what that land would let for as a large farm and the rent which the small holder was willing to pay for it was the margin they had to enable them to equip the holding. Therefore it was of the utmost importance that the initial cost of obtaining the land and the cost of the land itself should be kept as low as possible. The question of equipment was of very great importance, but he thought that it was being held up to view as a bogey and was a good deal over estimated when they were examining what would happen under this Bill. In the first place, it by no means followed that the demand for holdings under the Bill would be a demand for holdings which necessitated improvements. There were some men living in cottages with small buildings behind them who were exceedingly anxious to obtain land for cultivation, and who did not desire that the land should be equipped with buildings, and still less that a cottage should be erected. In a case he knew of a crown farm of 250 acres was, owing to the sympathy of the present Board of Agriculture with this movement, being let to the parish council and sublet by them to tenants. They had got on that farm sixty-five tenants, and not one single penny had been spent by the Crown in adapting and equipping the farm for the

Mr. Rogers.

purpose. The county council pegged out the claims, the men stepped in, and they were working to-day with every chance of success and without any necessity for any expenditure on the part of the Crown for the adaptation of the farm. He felt that that experience would be repeated under this Bill, and that the demand for a subsidiary holding would come from the men who already had a home and some kind of buildings attached to it. There was one criticism which he should like to make. The Bill altered the definition of a small holding in the Act of 1892, under which a small holding was anything exceeding one acre and going up to fifty acres or a rental of £50. Under this Bill it was anything over five acres and up to fifty acres or a rental of £50. He saw some danger under this change that some part of the demand for land would not be collected, sifted, and focussed as he thought it was intended that it should be. The Commission Clause made it mandatory on the Commissioners to make inquiry and to ascertain the extent to which there was a demand, either actual or prospective, for small holdings in the several counties, and, if there was a demand for holdings of less than five acres in size, it seemed to him it would not come under the cognisance of the Commissioners and would not be taken into account by them. He thought it would be the greatest injustice if anything under five acres was not treated as a small holding and the possessor did not receive the assistance and support which was given under this Bill to those of a larger character. It was in the case of these small holdings under five acres where intensive cultivation could be tried and where strawberries and other fruit could be grown, and it was just that kind of small holding that it was extremely important to encourage. At present, as he understood it, under the Bill the preliminary expenses which might be recovered from the Treasury did not apply to allotments under five acres, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way during the passage of the Bill through Committee to take away the obstacles and enable the same machinery to be used for holdings below five acres as was available in the case of the larger holdings. That represented the only real criticism he had to make on the machinery of the Bill. He believed that on the whole it was an exceedingly reasonable, practicable, and workable Bill. If the county councils and the Commissioners representing the Board of Agriculture were agreed to co-operate and work together they could make a great success of the provisions of the Bill, in which he saw a very considerable hope for the country side of England, and for that which had always seemed to him the most neglected asset of the British Empire—the agricultural land of this country.

*MR. STARKEY (Nottinghamshire, Newark) said it was impossible for anyone interested in the agricultural industry not to look favourably upon any proposal which would increase the number of those engaged in that industry, and therefore they must feel that any measure such as a Small Holdings Bill would undoubtedly be of advantage to the agricultural community. But there were difficulties in the way of providing such holdings, and the only proper method of looking at the question was to examine it from all sides and find out where the difficulties existed. Therefore they had to ask themselves from what point of view they should approach the consideration of the proposal. Should they look at it from the theoretical and sentimental point of view, or from the practical and commercial? They should collect all the facts and bring them under impartial review. The Government the other day produced a Paper in which was collected the evidence which had been given in favour of this particular Bill. But unfortunately they only dealt with one side of the question, and on reading that Paper he was very much astonished to find that the evidence only went in one direction. Then he turned to the county in which he was interested, Nottinghamshire, and he found the document did not give a full account of the evidence which had been given in that county. He would like to quote an extract from the summary of replies to questions which was given in the document with regard to Nottingham, because he thought it was applicable to many other counties—

"There is a keen competition for small holdings of ten to forty acres and they command

> very often a higher rent than is justified by the profit to be got out of them except where situated close to a town. There are not sufficient of these small farms to satisfy the demand."

He had not the advantage of a Government brief to refer to, and he was able to find only one reference to this matter, and that was in the Report on the decline in the agricultural population. There he found the same quotation made, but it was given by a witness who also added that the cost of putting up buildings to start such holdings would be very great. That, to his mind, was the whole crux of the matter, the cost of the buildings. He had no doubt that in very many places these buildings would have been put up long ago had it been likely that small holdings would be remunerative. Therefore they must assume that in many cases where they were demanded they were not likely to be a commercial success. It was a common fallacy to suppose that if a farm of 200 acres was let for £200, and it was split up into four farms of fifty acres, each of these farms could be let proportionately for the same price. But it was not so, because of the cost of the buildings, which would add materially to the rent which would have to be charged. Supposing £500 was a necessary sum to equip these small holdings. There would be three sets of houses and buildings to erect, and the original farm-house and buildings would be in the nature of a white elephant. In consequence of that cost it would be necessary to add at least £20 to the rent, so that it would be £70 instead of £50. In that case, when people knew what the actual rent was to be, would there be the same demand as previously? A farm was a mixture of good and bad land, and a vast proportion of the rent was applicable to the buildings, and if they took away one portion of a farm it might be very difficult to let the other portions. Therefore he thought it was very desirable that regulations should be inserted in the Bill, so that where damage was done to a farm by splitting it up into small holdings there should be no doubt that compensation would be paid. If it was a national necessity that something should be done to stop rural depopulation it was a national obligation that the State should pay for it. This Bill, however, seemed to shuffle off the responsibility from the State on to the shoulders of the land owners and the county councils. Agriculture, unfortunately, had not been represented in that House in proportion to the numbers employed in it, and therefore they had suffered in many ways, and many unfair burdens had been placed upon the industry. They paid out of all proportion for maintaining the roads, and, with regard to education, they had to pay for educating the children who, when they were educated, left the rural district because their education was not of such a character as fitted them for agricultural life, and they therefore lost the advantages of their services in the country, although they had had the expense of training them. He was afraid that by this Bill another obligation was going to be thrown upon the agricultural community, because if the county council incurred any bad debts, or if their schemes were not a success, it would fall upon the county to make good the deficiency. It seemed to him that the people of this country had become quite demoralised, and to a certain extent the Government had been affected, because for years they had eaten wheat which had been grown at less than the cost of production, and now they resented people leaving the land because they were not content to grow wheat any longer under cost price. What this Bill proposed to do, however, was to put an extra burden upon those who did remain upon the land in order to bring the other people back again. That did not seem to him to be sound. He had often heard of "robbing Peter to pay Paul," but he had never heard of robbing Peter in order to confer some benefit upon him. The county councils were popularly elected bodies, and it seemed to him that it was an extraordinary thing to override their decisions as this Bill proposed to do. They were in full touch with their districts, and if after full inquiry they came to the conclusion that there was no need for small holdings in their neighbourhood it was a hard thing that the Commissioners should come down and insist upon their spending money which they considered to be unnecessary. By so doing they would increase the rates, which had to be paid by tenant farmers and agricultural labourers and by everybody who was either directly or indirectly a ratepayer. The hon. Member for Dumfriesshire had written a pamphlet entitled "A Plea for Small Holdings," and had instanced what had taken place on the continent; how the land had been improved by reason of the inducement which ownership gave to men to work. In conclusion the hon. Member quoted a passage from Arthur Young—

> "Give a man secure possession of a bleak rock and he will turn it into a garden; give him a nine years lease of a garden and he will convert it into a desert."

What was going to happen to these persons who were to be tenants of the county council? Were they going to convert their holdings into deserts? If so, they would only be fit in the end for a municipal golf course or some such purpose. The Bill seemed to him to fail in two respects. It lacked any provision for the equipment of the land as a small holding, and it contained the principle of compulsory hiring which left the tenant a tenant still.

*MR. BOULTON (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) said the supporters of the Government welcomed the very friendly spirit which had been shown to the Bill by the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite. But when those speeches developed they showed that although hon. Gentlemen agreed with the spirit of the Bill they endeavoured to raise many obstacles against its being put into operation. When, however, those obstacles were examined it was found that some had been much exaggerated whilst others did not exist at all. It had been said that the children in the country districts were so educated that they would not stay in the country. He did not blame them, because one of the first effects of education was to make a man look forward to something more than poverty or the workhouse in his old age. Under the English system of land tenure this was the future of the agricultural labourer, and he was glad the Government was going to make a change and give these men a chance to get land of their own. The two objections which had been made generally against the Bill were, first, that the existing machinery for providing allotments and small holdings was sufficient, and, secondly, that the landlords of the country were willing under the present conditions to provide allotments and small holdings voluntarily. He would point out, however, that the Act of 1887 was a voluntary Act, and contained no provisions for the compulsory purchase or hire of land. Further, that it limited the allotment to one acre, and only those who came under the legal definition of the term "labourer" were entitled to secure an allotment. That Act was not effective, because the absence of compulsory powers made it difficult for the urban or county councils to secure the land. There was another Act, the Local Government Act of 1894, which contained compulsory powers, but there was nothing to compel the local authority to put the Act into operation. In his division in February, 1906, Lord de Ramsey, the largest landowner in the county, gave notice to quit to a large number of allotment holders. Those men formed themselves into an organisation and petitioned the district council to put into force the compulsory powers of the Act of 1894. This the district council would not do, but put into force the Act of 1887. The Ramsey Urban District Council then approached Lord de Ramsey and asked him for land for allotments, but, as the Council were acting under the voluntary Act they had no power, even if they wished to bargain with Lord de Ramsey for the land on the best terms possible, and the result was that when the Council obtained the land from Lord de Ramsey it was at an increased rent which cost the men about £1 per acre more than they had paid before. Many of the men refused to take up the allotments on the ground that they could not afford to pay the increased price. That showed how ineffective a voluntary Act was. He welcomed the power given to the Board of Agriculture to deal with organisations. When that organisation of allotment holders was formed in Ramsey they made an offer to Lord de Ramsey to take the land which had before been let in allotments; to pay the rent *en bloc*, in advance, and then to sublet it in allotments. That offer was refused, because Lord de Ramsey would not deal with anybody but the district council. The organisation then appealed to the county council, which they had power to do under the Act, to obtain for them allotments. This the county council could only do when the district council had refused to provide them on reasonable terms. The county council were willing to take the matter up, but refused to do so until the Local Government Board had defined what were "reasonable terms." The Local Government Board held, wrongly, he thought, that "reasonable terms" had nothing to do with the rent. The men then petitioned the county council to put into force the Small Holdings Act, which was another voluntary Act. The county council were very sympathetic, and after holding a public inquiry and satisfying themselves that a demand existed, advertised in the local papers and failed to obtain a single acre. The fact was that in Huntingdonshire the landlords would not sell. That showed the ineffective character of the present law. With compulsory powers the county council could have taken the land and satisfied the aspirations of these men, but owing to the lack of compulsory powers the men had to give up all hope of becoming small farmers, and many were now going out of the country. He was glad to think that the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman was going to alter that and place compulsory powers in the hands of the district and county councils, and that behind that, power was to be given to the Board of Agriculture to act. It was very necessary that the Board of Agriculture should have these powers, as the conduct of the Ramsey Urban District Council proved when it refused to put into operation the compulsory and effective Act of 1894, and insisted on putting into operation the voluntary Act which was almost useless. Unless these powers were given and the Board of Agriculture was willing to act where the local authority would not, the Bill would not be worth much. But if the Board was given the power to act where the local authority would not put the Act into operation the Bill would have a good result. Under this Bill in a case such as the Ramsey one the Board of Agriculture would be able to act if the urban council refused to do their duty, or the Board of Agriculture could act independently of the Council and directly through the men's organisations. For that reason he welcomed the Bill most earnestly, and hoped the Government would push it forward, overcoming every obstacle which was placed in its way, so that before long there might be a law which would stop the continual drain from the rural districts and prevent the emigration which was now going on of the best men in the country.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) hoped that he might be allowed to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill on the conciliatory tone of his speech, and he would be much obliged to him for his attention on a matter which had not yet been raised in the debate, and one of very great importance. It was very necessary, before the Bill left the House, that careful consideration should be given by the right hon. Gentleman to the great question of mineral rights. It was very probable, indeed certain, that in the districts where minerals abounded, there would be allotments and small holdings. In mining districts it was by no means uncommon, in fact it was a very common thing, to lease minerals without giving the lessee any power to break the surface at a given plot. He reached the mines by sinking at a considerable distance, and that plot remained entirely untouched on the surface. He thought that there ought to be some careful reservation of mineral rights, because the object of the Bill for small holdings was equally accomplished, although the access to the minerals below continued as aforetime. Then there was the question of severance. If they had a coalfield, and they interrupted the coalfield by a small holdership such as might occur under this Bill, they would be most seriously injuring a most important interest. He did not know in what way the question could be dealt with when they came to the details, but he had had a conversation with some gentlemen who were thoroughly acquainted with the mining industry, and it was after consultation with them that he ventured at that early stage of the Bill, in a brief manner but very anxious spirit, to submit the point to the consideration of the Government. In the Act of 1892, dealing with this subject, commonly called the Parish Councils Act, they dealt mostly, if not altogether, with agreements, and under an agreement they might place in the contract any condition they pleased; but under this Bill they proposed to proceed by compulsion, and that being the case it was of very great importance indeed that the Bill should be so modified at a later stage that the minerals might be carefully safeguarded. He need not call the attention of the House of Commons to the importance of mineral rights. Upon the coalfields of the country depended in large measure the national prosperity, and he submitted that the point which he had raised required the careful consideration and reflection of the Government.

MR. SILCOCK (Somersetshire, Wells) said he desired to support the Second Reading of the Bill. In that part of the country which he represented, depopulation had been going on for the last twenty years, and had been as great as in any part of the country. According to the Census of 1881 there were 28,000 agricultural labourers in Somersetshire, but in 1901, twenty years later, they numbered only 17,000. Such figures must make one pause, and feel that the subject was one of the greatest importance and justified the action of the Government. It had been suggested that the depopulation was caused by the laying down of arable land to pasture, owing to the reduction in prices, and that therefore a measure of the kind under discussion would not meet the difficulty. In his district there was a wood of 150 acres, where at the time of the Tithe Commutation Act there was a small hamlet, and the villagers cultivated their holdings. Those were now simply a wood. Reference had been made by the right hon. Member for Wimbledon to the Report published last year on agricultural depopulation, in order to justify his view that it was not the want of small holdings, but the decline in value which had caused depopulation. But if the Report were examined it would be found that the demand for small holdings which could not be satisfied was mentioned as a reason why so many people had left the country districts. One other reason mentioned was the lack of adequate cottage accommodation. The Report said—

> "Among the specific causes of discontent, a deficiency of adequate or satisfactory housing accommodation is reported from about thirty counties. The details, where given, may be referred to, but speaking generally, there is evidence, not only—or perhaps it should be said not so much—of an actual scarcity of cottages, though this is mentioned in some cases, as of a lack of cottages which satisfy the more exigent requirements of the labourers in these times, or comply with the demands of vigilant sanitary authorities."

The Report also spoke of—

> "the lack of an incentive to agricultural labourers to remain on the land, and of any reasonable prospect in life, and it is mentioned that in some districts, particularly in Scotland, many of the best men have been attracted to the Colonies, where their energies may find wider scope."

If they were to have any advancement some means must be found to satisfy the desire for land. The Report spoke of the desire for land, a desire which had not been met in many parts of the country. He thought there were many Members of the House who must know of cases where a great demand for small holdings had arisen when a large farm was cut up, and that a very keen competition took place for these holdings, while as a large farm the land could hardly be let at all. That happened especially in the neighbourhood of towns. The Report said—

> "The majority of the correspondents of the Board of Agriculture, however, report that there is a demand for small holdings, which is not satisfied for reasons which many of them specify. The belief that their provision would tend to keep people on the land is expressed in many reports. One correspondent puts the case succinctly: 'It is absolutely necessary that those employed in farm work shall have a prospect of rising by their own thrift and perseverance; for this purpose there should be cottages without land for the older people, cottages with gardens and allotments, and also small holdings from ten to fifty acres.'"

He thought that was a striking reason for the introduction and passing of this measure, which was, in the words used by the Prime Minister when he spoke last month in the City of London—

> "To enable the peasantry to lift up their heads and call their souls their own by giving them some little foothold when they will no longer be tied men but free."

They all knew that in many country districts men could not be regarded as free in the exercise of their opinions. Oftentimes if a labourer made himself obnoxious he was compelled to leave the district altogether. So long as men had no security of tenure and could be turned out of their holdings because their opinions were not agreeable to their landlord, they could not be expected to have that independence of character which it was desirable all Englishmen should possess. It was for that reason that he so strongly desired the passage of the Bill. If a man had a small plot of land he felt that he was secure. It had been objected that the Bill would not bring men back to the land. But if they could keep the men on the land, they would do a good deal to stop the rapid depopulation which had been going on. It had been stated that the Bill would not enable them to compete with the vast prairies of the United States and Canada. He did not imagine that the Government for one minute thought they were going to enable men to compete in the production of wheat with those vast areas. They did, however, believe that these small holdings would be used to produce fruit, vegetables, poultry, and such things. It was said that the Bill did not provide so much for the purchase of land as for creating tenancies. Many of them felt that it was far better that a man should be able to rent land with proper security of tenure than be compelled to purchase. The present hunger for land was so great that men put themselves to the greatest inconvenience to find money enough to purchase the land, and then they found that they had not sufficient money left to work the land properly. If they could give these men security of tenure, in the majority of cases it would be better that they should be tenants than be compelled to purchase. Feeling that the measure would be for the good of the country, he had no hesitation in supporting it. It would induce men to remain in the country districts, and that would help to maintain and improve the physique of the race, which had deteriorated so rapidly in the slums of the great cities and towns. By enabling men to acquire small holdings they would also foster that independence of character which they so much desired. For these reasons he intended to support the Bill.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said the hon. Member who had just sat down had stated that a great deal of political pressure was often put upon agricultural labourers, and that that caused great inconvenience. He would like to tell the hon. Member that in his opinion there was in reality a good deal more pressure put by Nonconformists upon their co-religionists than was put upon labourers by the landlords or by the Church of England party. It had also been stated that there was a great want of cottages for labourers in the country districts. He did not know whether the hon. Member knew anything about the country or not, but he would like to point out to him that they could not build a labourer's cottage in most parts of the country for less than £200, and besides that they had to find often a quarter of an acre of land outside the actual building, as well as a water supply and fences. About his part of the country labourers' cottages were rented at not more than £5 a year, which included rates and taxes, and that would pay about 2½ per cent. interest on the capital. In addition, the landlord had to do all the repairs, and there was always something going wrong. It was quite easy to spend a year's rent in doing some small repairs. That was the reason why there were not more agricultural labourers' cottages erected in the country. They could not expect people to build cottages when they knew they could not get more than 2 per cent. interest on their money. He agreed that there was a great want of small holdings in the country, and he was anxious to do all he could to keep the people in the country districts. He also agreed that smallholders cultivated the land better than the big farmers, and got more out of it. He could not, however, go much further than that. At the present time the labourer in the country had no chance of rising, and that was why he went into the town. The farmers in his part told him that with their harvest money the labourers earned about £1 a week. A man who had a wife and family to support would not be able to save much out of £1 a week. He was aware that with that wage they were better off than a great many people in the town, but they had no chance of getting on in the world. What they wanted was small holdings from three up to twenty-five or even fifty acres, but how were they going to get them? He was opposed to this Bill, because it was so frightfully complicated; it was impossible for it to do any good to any considerable number of persons except lawyers. He believed it would be very expensive and quite unworkable. The tenants would have two landlords and some of their buildings would belong to one and some to the other, and the same state of things would obtain in regard to repairs. What a man wanted was to have a small holding from a man he knew, and then he felt safe and was able to get on. That was what they could not provide under the present Bill. Unless a landlord had money which he could use for philanthropic purposes he could not afford to cut a big farm up into small holdings. If the Government desired to experiment in the creation of small holdings let them buy up farms altogether, because if they bought a part of a farm they would upset the working of that farm and cause tremendous friction in the countryside. He agreed that allotments of an acre ought to be provided by compulsion where they were wanted. If the Government would buy the farms outright and divide them up the tenants would be encouraged to become thrifty and save money, so as to be able eventually to buy their holdings out and out. That was the only solution of the question. The Government ought to buy farms in the most favourable district they could in order to try small holdings and if they failed they could give them up, and the experiment would not cost a great deal of money. He did not wish to say anything against Lord Carrington's experiment in small holdings and allotments, but the hon. Member for Norfolk appeared to think they had all been a great success. They had not, however, been tried long enough to prove that they had been successful, and consequently they must up to the present be treated as an experiment. He himself went down into Lincolnshire to see some of Lord Carrington's small holdings and allotments, and he found a good many of them had been given up by the men because they found that they did not pay. It was only fair to say that those allotments were about a mile and a half away from the town, and that fact was considerably against them. The land he alluded to was especially suitable for small holdings, because it was very good land and was worked quite easily with one small horse. There were no hen houses at all, and no accommodation for the breeding of pigs. Hon. Members who knew about stock farms were aware that a pig was a far more profitable animal than a cow. He considered that one necessity of a small holding was to have a place for the breeding of pigs. Speaking of Lord Carrington's small holdings experiment in Lincolnshire from personal observation and inquiry, he said it was a very great question whether it was going to be a success or not. The arrangement was that Lord Carrington let the land to a syndicate and built houses for small holdings. He charged 4½ per cent. for the money, and for three years he did the painting and repairing. The syndicate charged the tenants £10 for their houses and paid the rates and taxes. That was not a financially sound plan, because, to put it roughly, while the syndicate were getting 3 per cent. they were paying all the time 4½ per cent. The buildings were of wood and did not seem to be either durable or commodious. The Prime Minister had spoken in favour of the creation of small holdings, but he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that on his own estate at Belmont there were formerly six holdings, while now there were only two. He believed that but for an accident it would now have consisted of only one holding. He thought the right hon. Gentleman who laid down the law about these things ought to play the game himself. If the Government wanted to give these allotment holders and smallholders a fair chance, either they must take off all the taxation from the land, or they must put an equal import tax on the imported agricultural produce which at present paid nothing whatever towards rates and taxes. Imported agricultural produce was now in a privileged position. It got a preference or a bounty which ours did not get. Revenue had to be got from somewhere, but under our present system foreign imports did not pay their share of taxation. Therefore we were giving State aid to foreign producers. Free traders could not get out of that fact. The taxation which he advocated on imports was not protection at all; it was only equalisation of taxation. Until our fiscal system was altered, people would find it very difficult to make a living on the land. He was now speaking only for himself. He should be quite willing that rents should not be increased on agricultural land for, say, fifteen or twenty years while the experiment of putting equal taxation on foreign and home produce was being tried. The Government proposed by this Bill to get the people back on to the land, but the policy which was very much misnamed free trade had had the effect of drawing the best blood from the country districts into the towns and cities. While the workhouses were filled with poor people, and miles of slums were crowded with starving citizens, there were millions of acres of good land derelict in the heart of the Empire. Was not that the result of our present policy? The people could only be got back to the land by the reversal of that policy. They might tinker with the land laws until they were tired of it, but the economic conditions of which they complained were due to a policy which prevented the people of this country from having justice and fair play.

*MR. ELLIS DAVIES (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said he had no intention of going into all the points which had been dealt with in the discussion, but, in reference to the principle underlying the Bill, it seemed to him there were two questions involved—first of all, whether the county council should buy or lease land, and whether, after buying or leasing, they should resell or lease it to the occupiers. The principle involved in the Bill was the right one. He was satisfied, from the argument advanced by the right hon. Gentleman, that it would not be possible for the county council to do other than let the land to the occupying tenant. Another aspect, which was a rather serious one, was that the system of small holdings was already in existence in Wales to a certain extent. Seventy per cent. of the holdings in Wales at present were less than 50 acres in extent. He was sorry to confess what he thought would be rather a startling fact to a large number of Members of the House, that the tenant farmers in Wales, notwithstanding the small holdings, were in dire circumstances, and, in many cases, extreme poverty. Their experience in Wales was unfortunately not such as to warrant the assumption that the creation of small holdings would prevent depopulation. There were several reasons which had led to the present state of things. For instance, the Welsh small holder had neither fixity of tenure nor guarantee for improvements, and he had no capital. The fact that the Welsh tenants had no fixity of tenure prevented them from putting the land to the best use, as in the past they had often seen the tenant, after putting his capital and labour in the land, having to buy back his own improvements in the auction room. The Welsh tenants were not satisfied with the last Land Tenure Act, as it gave neither fixity of tenure nor a fair scale of compensation for improvements. Another drawback to the position of the tenant farmers in Wales was the want of capital, and when they went to the bank and asked for a loan on the security of their stock, they could not obtain the money except on ruinous terms owing to the changeable and fluctuating nature of their only security. He was glad that all these three points were dealt with in the Bill, which would place the occupying tenant who came under it in an infinitely superior position to that of the present small holder. But no county council in Wales, even those in which there was an overwhelming Liberal majority, would be disposed to advance money on the guarantee of a small farmer. He submitted, therefore, that it was essential that the guarantee should be given, not by the county council, but by the State. He wished to express the profound disappointment of the Welsh tenant farmers that existing small holders were not to have the benefits which were secured by the Bill for new holders. In the whole of Wales, 69 per cent., and, in his own constituency, no less than 82 per cent. of the tenant farmers occupied holdings of less than 50 acres. Although the position of the tenant farmers in Wales had been made the subject of inquiry for more than twenty years, the last time by the Commission of which Lord Carrington was Chairman—and which made the strongest recommendations in regard to the amendment of the land laws in the Principality—there was nothing in this Bill to mitigate or improve, in any shape or form, the lot of the existing small holders in Wales, and yet he submitted to the House that even under the Bill in its present form existing small holders were included. He put it that it was open for a friendly county council to acquire a whole parish, including some small farms, for the purposes of the Bill, and to re-let the small farms to the present tenants, but if such a proceeding was not within the purview of the Bill the scheme would no doubt be negatived by the Board of Agriculture under Clause 3. Moreover, the position of the existing tenant farmers of Wales under the Bill would be inconsistent with the attitude which the Government had taken in this House so recently as February last. The Secretary for Scotland then deplored the rural depopulation, and said that it was necessary to put an end to it, and to improve the conditions of the tenant farmers. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that, in order to improve the conditions of things, they must give security of tenure to existing holders, and not to future holders alone; and that it would be mere folly to spend Government money in creating new holdings before justice was done to the existing holders. What had happened to make what was folly in February legislative wisdom in June? They might be told that there would be an objection on the part of the landlord to extend the provisions of the Bill to existing small tenants. Why? For his own part he thought the landowner would much sooner sell a small rather than a large farm. In the first place he would get a better price, and on small farms there would be no game, because the small tenant's son was generally an expert poacher. Under the Bill the Government relied on the county council's hiring rather than purchasing land. As a member of a county council he expressed the opinion that these local authorities would not be disposed to advance money for the erection of buildings on land which belonged to a third party, and for that reason the county councils would be compelled to buy the land, but small holdings would be a delusion unless they could be obtained at a fair price. There was no provision in the Bill by which county councils could acquire land on terms which would enable them to let it to tenants at an economic rent, and it was therefore necessary that provision should be made, either in this or another measure, for a fair valuation by which the price to be paid would bear some relation to the rateable value of the land.

Mr. HEMMERDE (Denbighshire, E.) said he wished to identify himself with the remarks made by the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, both upon the Welsh aspect of the Bill and upon the more important aspect of the measure which touched the question of valuation. The hon. Gentleman had pointed out that, so far as Wales was concerned, the Bill was profoundly unsatisfactory, and that was the case. Wales was a country of small holders, and although this proposal would do something to create more small holders in that country, it would do nothing for the small holder who was at present fighting a hard fight for existence. It was quite clear that the Bill was not drafted with a view to the Welsh position, but he did not know why, because, after all, there had been a Report of a Royal Commission upon the condition of land in Wales presented some time ago, and one might have hoped that the particular case of Wales, with its multitude of small holders, would have engaged the attention of His Majesty's Government. But somehow or other it seemed to have escaped their notice, and that was all the more surprising as the Scottish Bill did deal with small holders. It was a strange thing, therefore, that the case of Wales was not dealt with. What was the position of the Welsh small holder? The Bill would reproduce the state of things which they had seen in Ireland, where, on one side of the road a holding would be held on such terms as would enable the tenant to purchase in a certain number of years by paying instalments which took the place of rent; but the man on the other side of the road would be paying a rent which exceeded the instalments, without any chance of getting any interest in his holding or of purchasing it. It was not in human nature that a man who had been on a holding for years, and whose family had occupied it for generations, should see another man brought under these conditions and given fixity of tenure and not feel aggrieved. He was certain that the Bill could be altered by a few words so as to deal with the case of the existing small holders in Wales. He wanted to emphasise this in another way. Out of 65,000 holders in Wales he thought there were 48,000 who held farms under 50 acres in extent, and the effect of the Bill would be to create a great and artificial demand for small holdings in Wales. That demand would send up the price, and so far from doing any good to the existing small tenant he might find that he was unable to continue in his holding because of the demand created by the Bill and the higher price obtainable. That was obviously a situation which the Government would have to face if they were going to create this great demand. That led him to the second point he had to make, and that was on the question of valuation. He heard the Prime Minister speak on this subject the other day, and after hearing his words he was at a loss to understand the present Bill. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "The bridge between town and country will be furnished by a Bill which will, I hope, be passed into law during the present session as the Valuation Bill. I cannot say that valuation is a very exciting word—though it appears to have a mesmeric effect on you here—but in providing, as we propose to do, for making a separate valuation of the land, apart from the buildings upon it, we are preparing the way for reform in the rating system in our urban areas, and we shall, at the same time, very much simplify the process of public acquisition of land by establishing a record of how much of its value is due to public improvements. That is an indispensable preliminary step."

Why had not that indispensable preliminary step been taken? Then, again, the Chancellor of the Exchequer early last year, speaking on behalf of the Government to the municipal authorities, said—

> "We are all agreed that valuation is the preliminary step, and the Government desire to have time to consider the best way of giving effect to the principle of taxing land values."

Valuation, therefore, being said to be a preliminary step, why was not the Valuation Bill which they wanted brought forward? It was suggested that it might follow sooner or later; but he would suggest that it should follow sooner. Without a proper system of valuation, and without a proper system of rating based upon that valuation, the Government were not going to do very much by this Bill. How were they going to focus the demand for small holdings? The people could apply for them through a parish council meeting, but in a good many parts of the country not very much would be said in such meetings about small holdings. If they did not act through the parish council meeting those who desired small holdings could apply to the county council sub-committee; but there were a great many counties where tenants would not apply to that body. Failing these two courses the tenants could apply to the Commissioners, but they would always have the fear that if they did so the officials of the county would be consulted, in which case they might just as well apply to the parish council or the sub-committee of the county council. Of these three procedures the only one that would be satisfactory would be the direct appeal to the Board of Agriculture. It was obvious to those who moved about in agricultural centres that the process of providing willing buyers or rather willing leaseholders for small holdings was a very difficult process indeed; they not only wanted to supply people who were willing to take the land, but people who were willing to sell, and those who wanted a Valuation Bill did so because without one they could not create that willingness to sell or lease by the landlord. That could only be done by some system of valuing and rating the site value. Let him take the case of Blairgowrie in Scotland. There they had pasture land at £1 an acre, and certain young men who wanted to start a fruit farm got it at £2 an acre. After they had made that fruit farm succeed they were offered neighbouring land of precisely similar value at £10 an acre. Let the House imagine that sort of thing happening in this country if this Bill were passed without a Valuation Bill. In Denmark and other countries they were finding that the successful cultivation of small holdings was bringing about its own ruin, and a system of valuation was necessary to protect prospective small holders against the greed of the land speculator. He knew a case where a labourer had a few acres at 65s. an acre, and twenty years ago the land would have fetched 10s., and eighteen months ago 40s. He wanted to know at what price that land was to be purchased or hired—at 65s. or 10s. an acre? Valuation was of vital importance, and yet the House was to spend its time in discussing other measures, such as the Patents Bill, while the Valuation Bill was shelved for another year or two. To hire or purchase the value must be put on a proper basis, and nothing in the Bill provided for that. We ought to profit by the mistakes of Denmark, Belgium, and Holland, and he hoped land reformers on both sides would emphasise the importance of valuation, and point out that the Bill which was the essence of their policy should not be delayed. There were two matters which he wished to emphasise, first the inclusion of the present small holders in Wales in the benefits of the Bill, and, secondly, that at the first opportunity a Valuation Bill should be brought in. That and this Bill were the only things that could make a success of small holdings. Such a Bill was necessary, because otherwise there was no security that the tenant would reap the benefit. They had to consider, not only the creation of small holdings, but also the people who were to become small holders. They wanted to see that what the small holder put into the land should be his; that he would not be rack-rented, and that the constant demand for small holdings should not force up his rent year after year. Those were the things they wanted to see, but those things this Bill did not give, and so far as he was concerned he could only support the Bill on the understanding that they had some sort of assurance that in the near future it would be put on a proper basis by the indispensable preliminary of a Valuation Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I do not wonder that the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down should have indulged in many expressions of regret at the policy of the Government in regard to the land. I do not wonder that he and his friends should have found themselves in some difficulty as to what the policy of the Government on the land question really is. The right hon. Gentleman in his interesting speech said he could not enter into any comparison between English and Scottish land legislation because it would, he thought, have been out of order. I think he will find later on that it was not only not out of order, but that anyone who desires to take a practical part in this debate must draw those comparisons. Students of the land legislation of this country during the last fifty years must stand aghast at the present situation. There has been legislation of all kinds—Irish land legislation, which began by adopting a method which we on this side of the House held then and have proved since to be impracticable unless accompanied by the buying out of one of the two parties. We have had legislation in connection with small holdings and allotments; legislation with regard to the tenure of land in England, and quite recently Scottish legislation. For my part I do not regret that the right hon. Gentleman has not adopted the Scottish practice for this Bill. To what are we driven? We have the Irish legislation, from which apparently the Government have learnt nothing, and now they are trying to deal with the same question in England and Scotland; to deal with the same people and the same class of land, the same difficulties and the same system of agriculture; and yet they apply a totally different system, which the right hon. Gentleman seeks to justify by the most remarkable and perhaps most interesting, but at the same time the most disappointing, of all expedients. For his justification he falls back on the precedents of those with whom he disagrees and of whose policy he disapproves, and which he and his friends when they sat in Opposition strove to defeat. He did not attempt to give any reasons for his belief that this remarkable policy would succeed. All he did was to dwell upon the desirability of extending small holdings. The reason we who oppose the Government take the line, which the Government very seldom took when they were in

Opposition, of not opposing this measure is that the object of the Bill is to extend small holdings, and to make the occupation of the land a matter of more general concern than it is now. The question is whether the Government are going on the right lines. The hon. Member for Denbighshire disapproves of the Government scheme because, first, it does not render the sale of the land simple, and, secondly, because it renders the position of the owner of the land impossible. We hold that if the Government are really going to deal with the question of the depopulation of the rural districts and set up small holdings, not only on an economic basis, but on one that shall yield a benefit to those who occupy them, they must proceed on the lines of ownership, and provide machinery by which they can help and almost guide those they are going to put on the land. There is very little in this Bill that proposes anything of the kind. It has often been said that in Ireland the Government have a great object-lesson. I know well how difficult it is to refer to the Irish question without getting on the more controversial side of it, and in what I am about to say I am most anxious to avoid anything connected with Irish controversy. The speeches made upon this question, with the exception of one remark made by the right hon. Gentleman, have so far avoided anything in the shape of controversy. But the right hon. Gentleman made one remark which was unworthy of him or anyone in his position as a landowner who all his life has been interested in the land. The right hon. Gentleman said there were those among the country gentry who would be perfectly willing to see this land hunger go on in its present unsatisfactory condition so long as they could preserve their game. The right hon. Gentleman is not wanting in the power of speech and argument, he has a good cause, and I do not think it was necessary to fall back on such an argument as that, which has no confirmation in fact. If the right hon. Gentleman with his experience of the land has made himself acquainted with the practice of the country he must know perfectly well that, though there may be rural populations with an insufficient number of small holdings, the landowners as a rule have done their best and their duty in the matter at a great sacrifice to themselves. With that one exception the speeches on this question have taken a line which I rejoice to see. Very little has been heard in them of those old pointless and baseless attacks on landlords. On the contrary, the whole of the criticisms have been directed to the system. If the system is definitely shown to have broken down it is necessary first to find something to take its place. Secondly, the Government must show that the new system proposed is likely to be successful. The criticism of right hon. Gentlemen has been of a friendly character, but if it means anything at all it means that this scheme is not likely to be more successful than any other which preceded it. The Government wish to increase the number of people carrying on a profitable business on the land, and they propose to do that by machinery to which I will refer later. What the right hon. Gentleman opposite overlooked was this, that the Government are going to make a revolution in this country in regard to the cultivation of the land. That is what it means. It is not a question of occupation or ownership, but of cultivation. The question is, is the land going to be cultivated in a better and more profitable manner than it is at present? If you can prove that under your new methods you are going to improve the cultivation of the land, then no one is entitled to attack you, on behalf of the landlords, so long as you treat the landlords fairly. Whatever may be the faults of landlords and large farmers, nobody can contest the proposition that, in regard to the cultivation of land, they have been pioneers, and have made great experiments which have frequently been followed by smaller men, and that without them these experiments would never have been made. You condemn the agriculture of to-day; you say that the land does not produce what it ought to produce; but how much would have been produced if it had not been for the example of the landowners and the larger farmers? If your experiment means anything it means that you intend, not merely to set up here and there small owners, but practically to make small holdings the rule instead of the exception. Very well; if that is your intention you cannot do it; the number of your acres is limited, the amount of land available for the purpose is still more limited; because if a man has a large farm he can afford to take the good with the bad, he can afford to take the average cost of the land. He may occupy a farm of 600, 1,000, or 1,500 acres, but I will guarantee that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, two-thirds of the land is indifferent, and only one-third of it is such as the farmer cares to have. You must take these big farms; you cannot get small holdings without them. Are you going to take the good land and leave the bad? If you take the good land you may injure the farmer; if you take the bad land the small holders will not thank you, and you will put them in a position which it will be impossible for them to occupy. Therefore, you cannot carry out this policy in the wholesale fashion which has been suggested, and which I believe many hon. Gentlemen opposite have at heart. I believe that they do think that by some change in the land system they can bring into existence a large body of small holders who are to replace the present class of tenant farmers. I ask the House to learn from the experience of small holdings in Ireland; it is never too late to learn. We have discussed this question often and often. I have spent my life on the land; I have had now nearly forty years practical experience of land management and cultivation; and I know that however many years a man may have spent on the land in trying to solve this problem there is still a great deal for him to learn in connection with it. Surely if that is true of a man who has been all his life on the land, how much more true is it of those who have only looked upon the subject from a theoretical point of view? I am not now thinking of political difficulties in connection with the land; I am thinking of the object which I believe the House has in view, namely, the improvement of the land system of the country from the point of view of the community and the productivity of the land. I say that from the situation in Ireland you have a good deal to learn; and if you deliberately set yourselves to create a large number of small holdings, you will get rid of many of those who are the pioneers and guides, and you must in common fairness help the small holders by giving them assistance, not through State aid or anything of that kind, but by developing those institutions to which reference has been made to-night, especially in the speech of the hon. Member for Cardiff, who dealt with an aspect of this question in terms with which I agree, although I entirely disagree with the rest of his speech. It is said that because we hold these views we are pessimistic, that we grumble and throw cold water on this scheme. We do nothing of the kind. We say the things we believe to be best, and we give reasons why the Government should proceed cautiously, and why they should not adopt the line laid down by the right hon. Gentleman, namely, that they will be extremely rigid in their consideration of Amendments. I do not quite know where the Government are bringing us to. We are getting a rather interesting development of our Parliamentary history. This is a Liberal Government, I believe; I am not quite sure about it; they generally call themselves a democratic Government; if there were time it would be rather interesting to ascertain what is meant by those two words. It is interesting that, under the control of a Liberal-Democratic-Progressive Government, we find two things. One is that the opportunities of the House to discuss openly and freely and without check, that is immoderate check, the provisions of a Bill are to be destroyed, because such provisions are no longer to be discussed in the House, but are to be discussed under conditions which are rather peculiar. Further than that, from the announcement of the right hon. Gentleman to-night, no Amendments are to be considered unless they are exactly in line with the views of the right hon. Gentleman himself and of those who are responsible for the Bill.

*MR. HARCOURT: The right hon. Gentleman will forgive my interrupting him. All I said was that the Amendments which I should favourably consider would be those for the strengthening and enlargement of the measure, not for its limitation.

MR. WALTER LONG: Very well then, if that means that so long as the Amendment is likely to make the Bill more workable than it is at present—["No"]—Oh, it does not mean that? However, so long as it means that we may have opportunities of pressing on the Government what we regard as useful alternatives, practical alternatives, I do not find fault with the suggestion. But if that is the meaning, then I confess that I do not understand why the right hon. Gentleman introduced the remark into his speech, because we always understand that the Government stands by the main provisions of its Bill. I understand that if we can make alternative suggestions they will be considered by the Government, and in that respect I hope our opportunities will not be curtailed. My right hon. friend has laid stress upon two details of the Bill to which we objected—first, the system of tenancy instead of ownership; secondly, the interference of a central department. I will take the latter question first. It has been claimed that a precedent was furnished by a Bill passed by the Conservative Party which the right hon. Gentleman and his friends fought with all the energy they could command, and fought on this particular point. They fought the Bill on the ground that it interfered with the rights and powers of the local authority. But how far is this a precedent? What is the right hon. Gentleman proposing? He proposes to give extended powers to county councils, and then, in addition, to give the central department of the Board of Agriculture powers of control over the county councils. I should be the last man to say anything disrespectful of the Board of Agriculture. I have served six very happy years there myself and I have many friends there, and I happen to know how well they do their duty. I think those officials may be thoroughly trusted, although they may occasionally have erratic people at their head. I do not complain of the Department, because if the President of the Board of Agriculture is guilty of eccentric conduct we can bring him to book in the House; but the Government are appointing Commissioners, who will have very wide powers. They are to go about, not to inquire into alleged demands or to report on the existing condition of things, but, as an hon. Gentleman opposite said, to stimulate the desire for small holdings. They are to go to these men and say, "Would you like to have a small holding?" Surely that is not the business of a Government. It is a new departure altogether, and for the right hon. Gentleman to rest himself on the Food and Drugs Act is astounding. Under that Act the inspectors are appointed to perform a duty which the local authorities dislike because it involves them in the prosecution of friends and neighbours. But these Commissioners, if they choose, can put on the county council the duty, not merely of raising a loan, but also of carrying on this operation after it has been begun. The hon. Member for Cardiff says there is a marvellous combination of central and local administration because you would have central control and local initiative. That is just what you have not got. The initiative is left with the Commissioners, and the local authorities may be holding inquiries at the same time. There are two controls going on at the same time. The right hon. Gentleman justifies it because he says the late Government have done the same thing in the Food and Drugs Acts; but why does he come to us for help? Does he not recollect what took place last session on the Education Bill? Surely a precedent from his own side should weigh more with him. A great controversy arose on that Bill over the power of the local authority to deal with what were called Clause 4 schools. Cannot the Government be consistent for two sessions? Last session that Bill stated that the local authority might do certain things. They proposed that, Parliament having fixed the conditions, the local authority should be called upon to carry them out. But the present Chief Secretary for Ireland has expressed in forcible terms the difficulty which the most powerful Board of Education would have in dealing with a recalcitrant local authority. He said, and I commend his words to the First Commissioner of Works, that—

> "It would have brought us, I am certain, into conflict with the local authority, and I have already had grievous experience of the disad-

vantages to even the Board of Education of coming into conflict with the local authorities."

I have never been a member of the county council for my own county, but I venture to say that if in my own county of Wiltshire the county council decided not to create small holdings, and the Board of Agriculture attempted to force them to do what they were not prepared to do, there would be such interesting scenes as would make the position of the Minister a very disagreeable one. I will undertake to say that that would be the case while we are represented by hon. Gentlemen who sit on that side of the House. I am convinced that, whatever their politics, they would not support the Government of the day in any attempt to coerce the county council of their county. I believe that would be the case in regard to every county. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of a county having "seriously considered" the question. What authority is to decide whether a county council has or has not "seriously considered" the question of small holdings?

*Mr. HARCOURT: The President of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The right hon. Gentleman says it is the President of the Board of Agriculture. It may be so in his intention, but it is not stated in the Bill. According to the Bill the Commissioners are to go about the country to do certain work. They are not to go under the direction of the Board of Agriculture.

*Mr. HARCOURT indicated dissent.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Then are we to understand that in any inquiries they make they are not to go anywhere except under the express authority of the Board of Agriculture?

*Mr. HARCOURT: The right hon. Gentleman was speaking about the action to be taken eventually. Of course, it is their duty to inquire everywhere and discover what should be done, but action after these inquiries can only be taken under the authority of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. WALTER LONG: This is a most important part of the question. What I was asking the right hon. Gentleman was whether these Commissioners are to be free. Nay more, is it not to be their duty when appointed to go about the country where they please making inquiries and making reports on schemes? Is this right or is it not? It appears to me to be clear that they will do this free from the authority of the central department. It is only when their inquiries are to be translated into action that the central authority will be called in. They are to be given a free hand to make their inquiries, to make their suggestions, and to draw up schemes. We are told that they have no right of action except with the consent of the head of the department. Upon what authority, information, or evidence is the head of the department going to check them and say that their reports are not to be considered and acted upon? What other opportunity has the head of the department of ascertaining what the view of the locality is? It seems to me that these Commissioners are either going to have real powers which may be very mischievous, or else they will hold a series of inquiries which will upset districts, annoy county councils, owners, and occupiers, and end in nothing. When county councils realise the effect of the Bill the position of those who are responsible for it will not be altogether pleasant. The rate I assume will be a county rate; it will not be levied over a portion of the county only, and it will be interesting for the constituents of Members opposite to consider whether they, dwelling in towns, should contribute towards the setting up upon a small holding of a milkman or ploughmen in a distant part of the county. The right hon. Gentleman has not given many reasons to justify his opposition to ownership. He gave two reasons, I admit. He said that people were in the habit of dying without making wills and that there was a difficulty in dealing with intestate estates, and another reason was that some people might fall into the hand of the moneylender and gombeen man. If these are the two most serious difficulties in dealing with ownership, I confess that I do not think they ought to stand in the way of our making a man the owner. These are not the objections. Everybody in the House who has been a party to our debates knows perfectly well what the objections of the Government are and why they dare not adopt the principle of ownership. The right hon. Gentleman is full of democratic ideas, but when he talks about mortgage difficulties and gives his views of ownership he cannot have forgotten those views upon which his Party founded their Irish legislation. The real reason is that the Government have a variety of parties to please. Of course it would not do for the Government to adopt a policy of purchase as long as they wished to keep on good terms with those who propose to put a special tax on ownership. It is easy to put a special tax on ownership so long as the owners like dukes and earls are in a minority. But when the dukes and earls have all been disposed of, and supplanted by small holders, what becomes of the schemes for differential taxation in favour of the occupier as against the owner? The real reason why the Government cannot adopt this policy of ownership is that they fear lest they should have at their throats that section of their supporters which refuses to admit any extension of the principle of individual ownership. This atrocious system of leasing ought not to have been extended to large holdings in a country like this where the amount of land is limited. The scheme of the Bill reserves to the local authority all the advantages in case of improvement, and leaves to the owner all the losses in case of deterioration of the holding. The Government are taking a disastrous step in abandoning the principle of ownership, and they will find that they are wrong. I think they will find, when they put the question to those who are to be the small holders of the future, "Do you wish to become small holders on the basis of ownership or occupation?" in 90 per cent. of the cases the reply will be in favour of ownership.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said that was against all the evidence before the Committee in regard to small holdings.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not at all agree with the hon. Gentleman. But supposing I am wrong, although the question was put before the people in the county of Rutland and there was no conversion there to the principle of hiring and leasing instead of ownership. If this Bill results, as hon. Gentlemen opposite hope, in effecting a radical change in the land system of the country, in generally altering the conditions under which land is held and occupied, then I ask the Government to pause and consider whether they really believe that a man would prefer to be a tenant under a local authority, to whom he cannot appeal, as tenants appeal to their landlords, for guidance and help in difficult times, rather than the owner of his own holding, getting out of it everything he puts into it to-day and to-morrow. It is really idle to argue it. If we are going to set up small holdings and extend them in a way that is really going to benefit the community, we ought to rest on ownership and not on occupation. We do not claim, either on the part of the landowner or of the large farmer, that they enjoy Divine rights of which they ought not to be deprived. But, at all events, credit ought to be given for the part they have played hitherto, and they ought to be treated fairly in any change that is made. I and my friends say that the Government will be rash and foolish in the extreme if they break down the existing system which has existed for centuries without being satisfied that the one they are going to put in its place is likely to be more successful to those immediately concerned and more beneficial to the community at large.

THE TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Somersetshire, S.): It is difficult to know what is the real position of the right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken. The right hon. Gentleman said that he approves of the creation of small holdings, but he does not think this Bill would be of any advantage in increasing small holdings. Then the right hon. Gentleman stated that this scheme was not more likely to succeed than any other scheme. But the great difference between the present Bill and other schemes, such as the Acts of 1874 and 1892, is that it is compulsory, and not permissive. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Bill would not improve the cultivation of the land, that where large holdings have been a failure small holdings would not be a success. There are, however, cases in which large holdings have failed and small holdings have succeeded. The Government have experience on this matter. A big farm in the hands of the Crown for two years was a dead loss to the Crown, but was let at a profit immediately when cut up into small holdings. The Woods and Forests split up the farm, or rather the gentleman to whom they let it did, into small holdings which enabled him to pay a rent of £700 a year, and also interest on equipping the small holdings. That shows that large farms can be split up with success. And the experience was that the small holdings were farmed just as well as the large holding. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wimbledon seemed to think that the creation of small holdings would result in the creation of a great number of bad farmers; but I believe if you compare the one class with the other you will find the small holders are quite as good farmers as the large. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the way in which we were likely to go to ruin in this matter. But what this Bill is going to do is to put right the mistakes of the fifties and sixties and seventies. Great mistakes were made in the West of England and other parts by farms being added to farms until the holdings became an unreasonable size. This Bill is to remedy those mistakes and to increase the number of small holdings. One hon. Member said it could be done by the landlords themselves, and that if they did not do it they had good reason for it. The fact is the landlords have not the money to spend on the equipment of small holdings, and where they have it tenants for life only do not like to take the possible risk. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the impropriety and indignity of coercing the county councils into dealing with this question, and he repudiated the idea that there was any precedent for such a thing in the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. There is a precedent not only in that Act, but also in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

MR. WALTER LONG: I did not say there was no precedent. I have been at the Board of Agriculture and have had to take action.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: Then we are in agreement that the county councils are liable to be coerced if they do not carry out those duties which Parliament decides they ought to undertake. If the right hon. Gentleman had spent as much time as I have on local bodies, he would know perfectly well that these local authorities are constantly being called to account by the central authority. There is not the slightest idea of insulting the county councils by calling them to account. I feel sure they will work amicably with the Board of Agriculture in this matter, and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that if the county council, having gone into the question of whether allotments were wanted, and having made reasonable inquiries, represented to the Board of Agriculture that they were not wanted, the Board would override them. The Board would most likely make experiments in these cases, but those experiments would be made, not at the expense of the rates, but at the expense of the fund placed at the disposal of the Board. Then I would remind the House that there is to be a public inquiry at which the county council has a right to be heard, and their objections considered by the Board. These Commissioners will be civil servants, and therefore responsible to the Board of Agriculture and the Board to this House. Hence it is impossible for any injustice to be done to the county councils in the matter. Then there is the fear expressed by hon. Members opposite that there might be a great increase in the rates in consequence of the schemes of the Commissioners. I am certain that no county council will adopt a reckless scheme calculated to increase the rates, and I am sure the Board of Agriculture will not force such a scheme upon an unwilling council. Then there is the question of ownership. The right hon. Member for the Bordesley Division talks of this question as if the Act of 1892 did not exist. That Act will still exist. It is not repealed by this Bill, and if the small holder prefers to become an owner instead of being a tenant of the county council he will have the opportunity of becoming so. The thing which the right hon. Gentleman seems to object to is that this Bill gives alternatives to the Act of 1892 if it becomes law, which it will as far as this House is concerned. It is a mistake, therefore, to say that this Bill only gives an opportunity to a man to become a tenant, because whilst it gives these alternatives it takes nothing away from the existing Act. With regard to the question put forward by the hon. Member for Denbighshire, who said the valuation should come first, I can assure the hon. Gentleman that a valuation Bill will come. As regards our own Bill, it is so drafted that when it does come these provisions can be easily applied. The hon. Gentleman complained that this Bill did not meet the wants of Wales. That is simply because in Wales there are so many small holders that this Bill is not required as it is in England. It does not profess to be a Land Tenure Bill, but a Bill to provide land for landless men. The reason the Bill does not do much for Wales is because Wales has so many small holdings. But if there is a demand in Wales for small holdings this Bill will, as in England, satisfy the demand. It is impossible for me to reply further owing to the short time left me by the hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, therefore I will end by saying that this Bill will be fair and just, I believe, to the ratepayers and the farmers who have to give up land.

Motion made, and Question "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. George Roberts*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

[NEW WRIT.]

New Writ for the County of Monaghan (North Monaghan), in the room of Patrick O'Hare, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 13*th June*, 1907.

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on the 5th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Armagh Urban District Council Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill. Read 3^{a}, and passed.

Grays and Tilbury Gas Bill; Brighouse Corporation Bill; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]—(unopposed Orders); Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]—(unopposed Orders); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.] Order for the meeting of the Committee on Tuesday next discharged, and Committee to meet on Monday next.

Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [H.L.] Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken before this House, together with the documents deposited in the case. Ordered to be communicated, with a request that they may be returned.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [H.L]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Amendments reported (according to order), and Bills to be read 3^{a} on Monday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (SANITARY MEASURES).

Report on sanitary measures in India in 1905–1906. Vol. XXXIX: Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^{a} on Monday next.

QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN (COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS) BILL.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I beg to give notice that, on the Motion to go into Committee on this Bill on Monday next, I shall move to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, with an instruction to consider and report whether the co-operation of women in certain matters of local government entrusted to county and borough councils might not be more effectively secured by methods other than election.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP BILL [H.L.].

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^{a}."—(*Earl Beauchamp*)

THE EARL OF LYTTON: My Lords, I am anxious to make a few remarks of a general character about this Bill before it is read a Third time. Immediately after the Committee Stage I made an appeal to the noble Earl in charge of the Bill to postpone the Report Stage for a week in order that I might have time to consider Amendments to Clause 5. I feel that some explanation is due to the noble Earl, and, indeed, to the House generally, of the reason why no Amendment to that clause appeared in my name when we reached the Report Stage yesterday.

When we were in Committee I endeavoured to persuade your Lordships that Clause 5 was a blot upon the Bill and moved to leave it out. I did not receive any support from other quarters of the House on that occasion. My intention was to refer to the matter again on the Report Stage, and to bring up a number of Amendments which would have the effect of very materially altering the character of the clause. On reflection, however, I considered that as

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

I had no reason to believe that I should receive more support on that occasion than I had received in Committee I should only be taking up the time of the House unnecessarily if I brought forward a number of Amendments which were not likely to receive general support; and, at the same time, since my objection was to the principle of the clause I felt that it would be impossible to remove that objection by any Amendments which would leave the principle unchanged. For these reasons, my Lords, I did not bring forward any Amendments to that clause when we reached the Report Stage.

I hope, however, that your Lordships will allow me to explain as briefly as I can some of the arguments which I should have used and some of the objections which I do feel to this clause. I am quite aware that we have already reached the Third Reading stage, but, for reasons of which the Government have offered us no explanation whatever, the greater part of the session was allowed to pass before the Bill was introduced at all, and I should like to ask, in connection with this Bill, the same question which was asked by Lord Camperdown with regard to the Bill we were discussing yesterday—namely, why it is that we did not see the Bill at an earlier stage in the session. The result of the lateness of its introduction has been that it has been hurried through its various stages in a manner which has made any lengthy discussion or careful consideration of its provisions very difficult indeed.

The Committee Stage and the Report Stage were put down upon days when the House was waiting to discuss two other very important matters—the land policy and the Irish policy of His Majesty's Government. Anything like a full discussion, therefore, upon those occasions was naturally undesirable. At the same time I feel that there were probably many noble Lords, like my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who had an interest in this Bill from quite different reasons and who would have been willing and anxious to take part in discussions upon it if it had not clashed with other more important subjects. And I do feel that it is really rather absurd, in view of the many days in the year in which this House has nothing whatever to do, that any matter in which even one or two of your Lordships take an interest should be crowded out by mere considerations of time.

I do not wish to appear ungrateful to the Government for having introduced a Bill dealing with the subject, or, indeed, unreasonable for quarrelling with them over what may appear to some of your Lordships a mere matter of detail in one of its clauses; but I do wish to make it clear, if I can, that my objection to this clause, my difference from the Government about this Bill, is one of principle and not merely one of detail. The point I wish to make clear is this, that in a factory or workshop which is carried on as a commercial undertaking and for purposes of trade, what I may call the convent spirit ought not to be encouraged. I hope I shall be understood when I use the words "convent spirit." I mean that attitude on the part of the authorities towards the inmates which treats them, not as free and willing workers, but as reluctant penitentiaries, without any will or freedom of their own, who have to be kept to their duties under conditions which are intended to be in as great a contrast as possible to those which prevail in the world outside.

Whether the disciplinary methods of convent life are or are not the best suited to the improvement of character is a question with which we are not concerned here this afternoon. It is a matter which we need not discuss in connection with this Bill. But whether those methods are good or bad for that purpose, I do protest against their being extended into the industrial part of the work of the convent, into the factory which is carried on as accessory to the other work of the institution. Where the work is that of a factory I maintain that it is the spirit, the discipline, and the conditions of a factory which ought to prevail there; and by factory spirit I mean that the workers should have the right to a statutory limitation of the hours of their employment, and that they should have a right to full knowledge both of the conditions under which they work and of the name and address of the inspector of their district. But these are exactly the points which are refused by the authorities of these institutions. They wish that their inmates should never see the conditions under which their labour is carried on, that they should have no knowledge of the fact that their work is subject to the inspection of a Government Department, and that they should never be questioned except in the presence either of the mother superior or of one of the nuns of the convent.

Now, my Lords, the Factory Act was passed in the interests of the workers who are engaged in industrial occupations, and this desire on the part of the good sisters of these religious and charitable institutions to conceal from those who work under them all knowledge of the benefits of that Act is, I maintain, an absolute negation of the whole spirit in which that Act was passed. It is assumed over and over again—it was assumed, I think, in a speech which Lord Balfour of Burleigh made in the Committee stage of this Bill—that in the case of these charitable bodies there is not the need which there is in the case of commercial undertakings for the application of a law of this kind. We are told that they are engaged in doing the work of God, and that in order that proper industrial conditions may prevail, they are under no need of the incentive of the factory law. I yield to nobody in my admiration of the work which is done in these places; nor do I desire for one moment to bring any accusation whatever against the authorities of these institutions. I do wish, however, to say very clearly, that the actual experience which has been gained in the last two or three years by His Majesty's factory inspectors, working under a voluntary arrangement, has proved beyond all question the fallacy which lies at the bottom of that view.

The Factory Reports in the last two years have contained evidence of the great need for the application in the fullest possible manner of the factory law to these places, for not only have the conditions which prevail in laundries under the authority of these institutions been found to be far from satisfactory, but in many cases the inspectors have found that the information given to them on the part of the authorities is altogether of an unreliable kind. I would just quote this one passage from the last issued Factory Report for 1905. The inspector says—

> "We felt strongly that the information received with regard to accidents was entirely unreliable, and wherever we had the means of checking it we found it was not upheld."

A little later on, speaking of Houses of Mercy, the inspector says—

> "With regard to the period of employment we cannot feel that our information is any more reliable than that obtained in the penitentiaries."

The suggestion was put forward by Lord Balfour of Burleigh when the Bill was in Committee that whenever information of this kind was given which was contrary to the truth the institution in question should be struck off the list of those coming under the provisions of the Bill and receiving benefits from it. I maintain that, in the case of these institutions, if his suggestion were to be carried out a very grave injustice would be done. The breaches of the law for which they are responsible or the unreliable character of their information are not due, I am perfectly certain, to any wilful desire to mislead the authorities or to work hardly upon their inmates; but, whatever the motives may be, the facts remain, and it is because of these facts that I insist very strongly that there is a grave need for the application of the law to these institutions in the fullest possible manner.

What the Government have to decide is this, whether or not the Factory Acts shall be applied in spirit and in letter to the industrial work carried on in connection with these institutions, and if they decide that question in the affirmative they must be prepared to meet with a certain amount of hostility and opposition on the part of those who are very apprehensive of what the consequences may be. But, my Lords, if they are not prepared to meet that opposition, if they are not prepared to meet and to overcome opposition on the part of the authorities of some of these institutions and those who speak for them, I say they had much better have left the question alone altogether.

My noble friend Lord Balfour, speaking in the Committee stage, said, or implied, at any rate, that what I was proposing by the Amendment I had brought forward was something quite new and harsh, and unjust with regard to these institutions. I cannot help thinking that he must have forgotten what has been the past history of the matter, for this is not the first time upon which this question has been raised. In 1895, after a full inquiry into all the circumstances of the case, the Liberal Government which was then in power introduced a Factory Bill with provisions applying the factory law to the laundries carried on by these institutions, without any exceptions whatever. It is quite true they were unable to carry that clause by reason of the fact that their majority was entirely dependent on the Irish vote, but in those days at any rate they had the courage of their convictions; and to-day, when they are not so dependent, it is a very different Bill which they are bringing forward. But in 1901, when a Unionist Government was in power, a clause was carried in Committee in the House of Commons on their Factory Bill also applying the law to these institutions. Again the clause was dropped, and on that occasion the Unionist Party was subjected to the severest possible criticism on the part of Liberal newspapers and Liberal Members of Parliament for having, with their very large majority, failed to grapple with the question. I will give your Lordships a specimen of what was said of the Unionist Government in those days This is an extract from the *Daily News* of August, 1901—

> "If this be a Government of social reform we can only say that most genuine reformers would prefer a Cabinet of honest reaction. There is no use in blaming the Irish Members. . . . The sole responsibility rests with the Government, who have given up what they knew was right rather than face an Irish resistance they could easily overcome. Mr. Asquith, in 1895, was in a very different position. He and the Government depended on the Irish vote."

The present Home Secretary, who was responsible for this Bill, speaking in reply to a Scottish deputation, said—

> "He considered that the difficulty of dealing with institution laundries had been perhaps rather exaggerated, and that the opposition was such as would be likely to yield if the question were taken up with firmness and decision."

Then in 1902 similar proposals were brought before this House in a Bill which I had the honour to introduce, and it passed through all its stages in your Lordships' House without a division. Those facts prove that what I venture to ask this House to accept this year was accepted by both Houses of Parliament in former years. It was not only accepted by both Houses of Parliament; it was accepted also by a large section of those who are responsible and who spoke on behalf of the institutions themselves. I have in my hand a letter, published in *The Times* in 1902, written by the secretary of the London Diocesan Council for Rescue Work, and it gave a report of a conference held by that council to consider the Laundry Bill which I had introduced. This is the resolution that was passed—

> "This Conference approves generally of the Bill introduced by the Earl of Lytton, but considers that the Bill should be amended in Committee so as to secure (a) that the notices to be published under the Act should in the case of charitable laundries be of a form appropriate to the special conditions of the institutions, and (b) that option should be given to the managers to ask for a female inspector."

Then there follow these important words—

> "The questions of the hours of labour and the allowance of overtime were laid before the Conference, but no resolution was proposed, it being generally felt that no representation respecting these points was called for."

There was nothing which was said against the Unionist Government in 1901 for having dealt without firmness with this question which is not equally applicable to the present Government with its large majority in the House of Commons.

Clause 5 of this Bill is a surrender of the whole position. It brings these institutions within the law, and it leaves the convent spirit paramount in them just as it was before. As the Bill stands no abstract of the conditions of labour need be put up in the workroom, none of the usual notices required by the Factory Acts have to be sent, and with regard to the hours of employment the whole matter is left to the discretion of the Home Office. It is quite true, we are told, that those hours are to be on the whole not less favourable than those of the principal Act, and the noble Earl in charge of the Bill told me the other day that I ought to be satisfied with those words. But I am not altogether satisfied with those words on the whole. Can anybody tell me what they mean? I have no doubt the Government would say—they did, in effect, say the other day—that the condition of Ireland at this moment was on the whole satisfactory. They would, I have no doubt, also say that their conduct of the course of the Parliamentary business of this session had been on the whole successful. They would tell me, I have no doubt, that this Bill was on the whole a good Bill. The only conclusion I can draw from these considerations is that something which is good on the whole is at any rate not wholly good.

And when I am asked to have this confidence in the Home Office I cannot help considering that their attitude, as shown by the drafting of this Bill, is certainly not indicative of that firmness and decision which Mr. Herbert Gladstone pleaded for in 1902. We have no guarantee whatever that the arguments which have already prevailed with the Government to withdraw from these institutions the obligation of putting up notices in their workrooms may not equally be used and equally prevail with them to allow the periods of employment to be so manipulated and so arranged that they can be used as a disciplinary measure to overcome the resistance of a single recalcitrant inmate. I would much rather that these institutions remained outside the law altogether than that they were given the appearance of being institutions under Government inspection and subject to Government authority whilst the spirit of the convent was still left paramount in their commercial undertakings.

It is upon that point, my Lords, that I take my stand. Where commercial work is undertaken for purposes of trade it should be the spirit as well as the name of a factory which should be applied. I apologise to your Lordships for having spoken at such length on the Third Reading of this Bill, but for the reasons I have already explained it was difficult to bring forward some of these arguments on a previous occasion. If the views which I have put forward have not been able to prevail in this House I am confident, nevertheless, that when this Bill goes to the House of Commons, if it ever does go there, very much the same criticisms as I have ventured to raise will be brought against it, and it will not be allowed to pass into law in its present shape.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY : My Lords, those who have followed the discussions of this subject will be aware that I am entirely in accord with the principle underlying the greater part of the noble Earl's remarks. As the representative of a large number of institutions connected with the Church of England—and, of course, I have no authority to speak for others—I may remind you that I have from the first welcomed the introduction of inspection into their industrial departments and the making of that inspection as thorough and adequate as possible. I welcome the play of fresh air and light on everything that happens in the industrial part, or indeed in any part, of these institutions.

I venture to think that the noble Earl's speech to-night has left us a little in the dark as to what he exactly means by the introduction of the convent spirit into the industrial work of these institutions. I can only say that a state of things under which the inmates are kept in ignorance of their rights and prevented in some degree from letting facts become known about matters which are amiss, is not only not a state of things with which I have any sympathy, but I do not recognise it as existing in any of the institutions with which I have been connected. We want to have all our industrial arrangements thoroughly and authoritatively inspected. We have nothing whatever to conceal, nor any desire that mistakes, if such there be, should be shielded or excused. At the same time I do maintain, and I venture to think the noble Earl has a little forgotten it, that there are fundamental differences of conditions between factories and laundries conducted solely for the purpose of trade and factories and laundries connected with the kind of institution to which reference has been made. The noble Earl asked why the rules and customs laid down for the one should not apply to the other. In the main, my Lords, I hope they do. I desire the fullest inspection, every reasonable facility for complaints in connection with the management, and the fullest daylight on every part of the proceedings. As to the notification of accidents, I have obtained a declaration on behalf of the Government that rules on that subject applicable to trade laundries will also be made obligatory with regard to institutions. I am eager that the hours of work should be known to the authorities, and that anything which needs amendment should be amended. But, my Lords, when all this has been said, there does remain a fundamental difference between the conditions under which work is carried on in religious institutions and the conditions which quite properly subsist in the trade laundry. The object of the former is to effect reform of an educative kind. In the trade laundry, disorder or laziness or any other sort of wrongdoing is punishable, of course, by dismissal. But in the institution, the very object is to take in the disorderly and the ill-behaved and to train them, in spite of themselves, into reasonable, wholesome, and orderly workers. Surely, therefore, it is obvious that some of the rules which are applicable to the trade laundry require a little modification before they are applied exactly as they stand to these educative institutions. I entirely agree, however, that that modification should not be such as to interfere with freedom of examination and inquiry on the part of those who are qualified and commissioned to see that all is as it ought to be.

After studying the Bill with all the care I can, I fail to see any probability that, on the whole, it will make wrong things possible which could have been avoided by another mode of wording. It is a question of administration, and if the administration be found to work badly I should be the first to desire to see a further remedy applied. I should deeply regret it if anything were done now which should throw this whole reform back. It does seem to me that, whether the words which regulate the special arrangements are exactly what we should have chosen or not, we have gained something in that we have secured the necessity of Government inspection for every laundry connected with these institutions, and that there shall be only such modifications with regard to notices and rules as the Home Secretary, subject to the pressure of public opinion, which will, I know, be watchful, feels to be right and necessary. After the assurances which the noble Earl has given us, I fully believe that we may trust the Home Office to deal with the matter fairly, that we may trust the inspectors to act with common sense and judgment, and that the best and wisest women among those connected with our institutions will be ready, after a short experience, to welcome the results of this legislation.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, the noble Earl opposite began his remarks with a question and a complaint, with which I should like to deal first. He asked why the Bill had been introduced so late, and I think my reply must be based upon the speech which was made by the Prime Minister in another place. The Prime Minister explained how great a pressure the autumn session of last year had placed upon the public Departments, and how difficult it had been for them, in view of the extra work entailed by Parliament sitting throughout the autumn, to draft their Bills in time to be introduced early in the present session.

Then I come to the complaint that we had rather hurried this Bill through. I am afraid I cannot plead guilty. This Bill was introduced and read a first time on 2nd May, and I do not think, that as to-day is the 13th of June, it is quite fair to charge His Majesty's Government with having hurried the measure through your Lordships' House. Let me remind the noble Earl of what, after all, is the principle underlying the action of His Majesty's Government in this matter. The noble Earl's remarks dealt chiefly with Clause 5. I think I may fairly ask your Lordships to remember that up to the present time there has been no effective inspection of institution laundries at all, though there has been a little voluntary inspection in some; and this Bill introduces effective inspection for the first time. In the circumstances, it was thought, and I think not unnaturally thought, that some elasticity was necessary, seeing that to put rigid conditions on all these institutions would arouse opposition and be fatal to the Bill in another place.

The noble Earl commented on the great difference between the factory spirit and the convent spirit. I think the most rev. Primate has already dealt effectively with that point. I cannot see, however, that it is impossible for the two to be combined. In so far as the factory spirit means that you desire to protect your workers, and the convent spirit means that you wish to improve their character, it does not seem to me to be impossible in these institutions to combine the two under the elastic conditions provided by His Majesty's Government in this Bill. The complaint of the noble Earl was chiefly that the rules and regulations for the management of these laundries were not to be fixed in a prominent place in the laundries themselves. I venture to think that that is, after all, a very small matter as compared with the more important points—the hours at which they are to work, and effective inspection—which, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, are provided for in the Bill.

One of the most brilliant speeches ever delivered in your Lordships' House was made some years ago in moving or seconding the Address, and in it the noble Lord who was then speaking made special fun of some of his opponents on the ground of their gloomy predictions. He spoke of them as having created, not castles in the air, but dungeons in the air. The noble Earl who initiated this discussion may remember that phrase, as it was one of his own, and I could not help thinking, as I listened to him this afternoon, that he himself was full of somewhat unnecessarily gloomy predictions as to what might be the result of this clause. It will be obvious to your Lordships that it is in the first place expedient that the Government should do all they can to meet the wishes of the institutions in this matter. As I say, they come under inspection for the first time, and it is not unnatural that some of them should be somewhat timorous of the results of that inspection. I think it is only expedient, therefore, that such provisions as can be placed in the Bill should be placed there in order to allay their fears, and I venture to think it is also in the circumstances right that there should be this greater elasticity allowed. His Majesty's Government in this matter have been guided by the experience of these institutions, who have asked for these provisions to be introduced into the clause, and for my own part I cannot associate myself with the noble Earl in his somewhat gloomy predicaments as to the results.

In common wi h all those who are interested in this question, I regret that the noble Earl should not be able to give us a more wholehearted support of this measure. I had hoped that he would at any rate have associated himself with the most rev. Primate, who is able to give the Bill hearty approval, even though that approval is slightly qualified. But I trust that the noble Earl will carefully watch the effect of the Bill if it becomes an Act, and I have very little doubt indeed that after he has watched it for some time he will come to the conclusion that the general advantages which it does confer on the workers in these factories far outweigh the fears which he, somewhat unnecessarily in my opinion, has expressed to your Lordships this afternoon.

On Question, Bill read 3^a, and passed; and sent to the Commons.

PROHIBITION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE BY COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

DENTAL COMPANIES (RESTRICTIONS OF PRACTICE) BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee), made, and to be printed. (No. 72): Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies Bill [H.L.] reported without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House: Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice) Bill [H.L.) reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House, and to be printed as amended. (No. 73): Minutes of Evidence and an appendix laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government if they can state how much longer the Royal Commission on the Duties of the Metropolitan Police is expected to sit, and whether any facts of importance have been elicited hitherto. I have put this Question on the Paper because I am quite unable myself to understand for what reason this Commission is now sitting. If it was appointed for the purpose of discovering that the police are human beings like everybody else and liable to make mistakes occasionally, it was unnecessary, and it was equally so if the purpose was to demonstrate that the Metropolitan Police are the best body of police in the civilised world. These are facts with which everyone is perfectly familiar. The immediate cause of the appointment of the Commission was a mistake made in the case of a lady of French nationality, and it is hardly credible, but nevertheless true, that this much-maligned person has not appeared before the Commission. Nearly the whole of the time of the Commission has been occupied in listening to tales told them by bookmakers, loafers, and persons whose professions and avocations are perhaps better left undescribed, and it has resolved itself into a vague, fishing kind of inquiry. In view of the terms of the reference to this Commission, which was appointed—

> "To inquire into and report upon the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets, and the manner in which these duties are discharged,"

it is perfectly obvious that it may go on indefinitely. At the beginning of the session I inquired privately of my noble friend who represents the Home Office whether the inquiry was shortly coming to an end, and he informed me that he was under the impression that it was about to terminate. I wish now to ask how many days the Commission has sat, how much it has cost up to now, and whether, in the opinion of the Home Office, any single fact of any importance has been elicited in evidence, and whether, in short, the noble Earl considers that anything worth the cost of a single day's sitting has yet been elicited by the Commission? It is a curious fact that, whereas our Metropolitan Police force appears to be the envy of every other nation—and foreigners are never tired of expressing their admiration for the methods by which something like 15,000 men control a population of 6,000,000, including some of the worst ruffians on the face of the earth—we are at the present moment apparently endeavouring to discredit the force by haling them, as if they were criminals, before the Commission in question and putting all sorts of ridiculous questions to them. If an inquiry into the condition of the police force is necessary, it should be conducted in the ordinary way by means of a departmental Committee. A fishing inquiry of this kind can only exercise a demoralising effect on the police. I hope my noble friend will be able to give me an assurance that this long-drawn-out farce is coming to a conclusion.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I am glad to be able to tell the noble Lord that the Royal Commission do not expect that it will be necessary to hold more than a few further sittings for the taking of evidence. They began to sit on 17th July of last year; and they have held fifty-seven sittings for the taking of evidence since that time. I am unable to answer the noble Lord's question as to cost, as that has not yet been accurately ascertained. The Commissioners are of opinion that the inquiry is not one which in the interests of the public should be prolonged for a longer time than is necessary to discharge the duties imposed upon them; and they propose to present their Report and the bulk of the evidence as soon as the difficult and delicate character of the inquiry will permit. With regard to the expression of opinion invited from me by the noble Lord on the kind of information elicited, he will at once see that it is impossible for anybody who represents the Home Office to express such an opinion at the present time. The inquiry relates to a body of men under the control of the Home Office, and it would be very inadvisable that the Home Office should, before the presentation of the Report, express an opinion on the matter, which is still, so to speak, *sub judice*.

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, I beg to move that the following Lords be named of the Select Committee to consider the suggestions which have from time to time been made for increasing the efficiency of the House of Lords in matters affecting legislation, and to report as to the desirability of adopting them either in their original or in some modified form.

Moved, that the following Lords be named of the Select Committee—

L. Abp. of Canterbury.
D. Norfolk.
D. Bedford.
D. Devonshire.
D. Northumberland.
M. Lansdowne.
E. Jersey.
E. Lauderdale.
E. Onslow.
E. Cawdor.
E. Camperdown.
E. Lytton.
E. Halsbury.
V. Selby.
V. St. Aldwyn.
L. Clinton.
L. Brodrick (*V. Midleton*).
L. Ribblesdale.
L. Clonbrock.
L. Rosebery (*E. Rosebery*).
L. Belper.
L. Kenry (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).
L. Newton.
L. Courtney of Penwith.
L. Collins.

—(*Earl Cawdor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 13th June, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MR. SPEAKER'S ABSENCE.

The House being met, the Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr. SPEAKER from this day's sitting.

Whereupon Mr. EMMOTT, the Chairman of Ways and Means, proceeded to the Table, and, after Prayers, took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDER 64 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 64 has been complied with, viz. :—Midland Railway Bill [Lords].

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—Midland Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

Lower Thames Tunnel Railways Bill (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed.

United Methodist Church Bill [Lords]. —Order for Committal [12th June] read and discharged.

Ordered, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of Nine Members, Five to be nominated by the House, and Four by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented Five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee ; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents be heard against the Bill, and Counsel be heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*The Deputy-Chairman.*)

Clyde Navigation Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time and passed.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]: Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

King Edward's Hospital Fund Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Rectory Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Rotherhithe, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against: From Bucknall; Cleeton Saint Mary; and, London and other places; to lie upon the Table.

WEEKLY REST DAY BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

Petitions against, praying to be heard by counsel: From Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company; Barry Pilotage Board and Pilots; Cardiff Railway Company; Commissioners for the Port and Harbour of Galway; Cunard Steamship Company, Limited; Furness Railway Company; Irish Steamship Association; Limerick Harbour Commissioners; Llanelly Harbour Trust; Newport Harbour Commissioners; North British Railway Company; North Eastern Railway Company; Sharpness New Docks and Gloucester and Birmingham Navigation Company; and, Swansea Harbour Trustees; referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (SANITARY MEASURES).

Copy presented, of Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1905-6 (Vol. XXXIX.) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

Copy presented, of Agreement for the Exchange of Insured Letters and Boxes, 26th May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th April; *Mr. Murray Macdonald*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 190.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3822 to 3827 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Elementary Schools—Hygiene and Temperance.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): To ask the President of the Board of Education if his attention has been called to the demand for the compulsory introduction of the teaching of hygiene and temperance into the curriculum of elementary schools; and whether he intends, by legislation or administrative action, to carry through a scheme in reference thereto with as little delay as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have received numerous representations urging the necessity of extending the teaching of hygiene in elementary schools. The Code at present lays down that physical training should be included in the curriculum for scholars other than infants, and should be accompanied by instruction in the elementary rules of personal health in respect of food, drink, cleanliness, and fresh air, and the volume of "Suggestions for the Consideration of Teachers," which was issued by the Board a few years ago, included an outline scheme for the teaching of hygiene and temperance. I am considering how the numerous difficulties connected with the teaching of this subject can be surmounted, and I hope to derive considerable assistance in this from the International Congress upon School Hygiene which meets in London in August.

Soldiers' Training for Civil Life.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N. E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the statements sent to his Department by commanding officers respecting the proposed training of soldiers for employment in civil life contain complaints against trade unions, and will be issued as a Parliamentary document; whether he can state the extent to which officers have attempted to carry out the suggestions made to them on this subject; and whether he can take steps to provide that ex-soldiers shall not be used for forms of civil employment at less than the recognised rates and conditions established by the various workmen's organisations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) In accordance with the promise given in another place on the 29th May a Paper will very shortly be laid upon the Table of the House containing a Report on the steps being taken to provide technical instruction to soldiers. These Papers will give the information asked for in the former part of the Question. As regards the latter part of the Question, the employment of soldiers after their return to civil life is subject to the ordinary conditions of labour over which the War Office has no control.

Volunteer Decorations.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he proposes to make any, and if so, what, provisions in the case of members of the existing Volunteer forces with many years service, who, being unable to comply with the terms of enlistment in the proposed Territorial Army, or who may be ineligible for such enlistment under any new conditions about to be imposed, are thereby, and without any fault of their own, deprived of the opportunity hitherto held out to them of obtaining in the case of officers the long service decoration, and in the case of men a long service medal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This matter is not being lost sight of, and, while I am not at present in a position to make any definite statement on the subject, I can assure the noble Lord that every consideration will be shown to the cases to which he refers.

Navy and Army Tinned Rations.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): To ask the Secretary of State for War why, in view of the fact that most of the tinned meat for the Navy is bought from Australia and New Zealand, it is found necessary to buy most of the tinned meat for the Army from the United States of America.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The contracts for the supply of tinned meat for the Army are placed after competition without regard to the country of origin. But in order to extend, if possible, the area of supply, an officer has been sent out by the War Office to Australia, New Zealand, and South America, to report as to the capacity of establishments in these countries entering into the field of competition to supply our needs.

Cadet Corps.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any moneys voted for Volunteer purposes have been or will be paid over to public schools for the support of cadet corps or instruction of cadets in shooting.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No moneys voted for Volunteer purposes have been or will be paid over to public schools for the support of cadet corps or instruction of cadets in shooting.

Naval Expenditure.

Mr. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what was the increase on Naval expenditure in 1904 compared with that in 1894.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The increase in the net expenditure on Naval Services in 1904–5 as compared with that in 1894–5 amounted to £21,985,594 as follows:—

	1904–5.	1894–5.
	£	£
Net expenditure - - -	36,859,681	17,642,424
Abate: Annuity under the Naval Works Acts - - -	634,238	—
	36,225,443	17,642,424
Expenditure under Naval Works Acts - - - - -	3,402,575	—
	39,628,018	17,642,424
Increase - - -	£21,985,594	

Mr. VERNEY: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what has been the increase or decrease on Naval expenditure in the years 1905 and 1906 as compared with that in 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The decrease in the net expenditure on Naval Services in 1905–6 as compared with that in 1904–5 amounted to £4,178,385 and the corresponding decrease in 1906–7 as compared with 1904–5 is estimated at £6,745,020 as follows—

	1905–6	1904–5	1906–7 (Estimated).
	£	£	£
Net expenditure - - -	33,151,841	36,859,681	31,567,000
Abate: Annuity under the Naval Works Acts - - -	1,015,812	634,238	1,094,309
	32,136,029	36,225,443	30,472,691
Expenditure under Naval Works Acts - - - - -	3,313,604	3,402,575	2,410,307
	35,449,633	39,628,018	32,882,998

Decrease in 1905–6 as compared with 1904–5 - - - -	£4,178,385
Estimated decrease in 1906–7 as compared with 1904–5 - - -	£6,745,020

Shoreham Foreshore.

Mr. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if his attention has been called to the proposed sale of the foreshore at Shoreham, Sussex, as freehold land to a building company, thus excluding the public from access to the sea; and if he can take any steps to prevent this.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The attention of my right hon. friend has not been called officially to this matter, though the Board of Trade have seen paragraphs in the newspapers on the subject. Whatever be the exact circumstances of the property, the purchaser will take it subject to any rights of the public which now exist, and no buildings can be erected on the foreshore without the consent of the Board of Trade.

Irish Licensing Laws.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Prime Minister whether it is intended in the forthcoming licensing legislation promised for next session to deal with the paramount claim of Ireland to a reform of her licensing laws; is he aware that the licensing laws of Ireland are less favourable to the promotion of temperance than those of England; that the number of licensed houses is excessive; and that there is no power, as there is in England, to reduce the number.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) His Majesty's Government have no intention of including Ireland in the licensing legislation promised for next session. I am aware of the differences between the licensing system of England and that of Ireland.

St. Helena Barracks.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what arrangements have been made, in the absence of a garrison, for looking after the guns, barracks, and fortifications in the island of St. Helena.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) An officer of the Royal Engineers with a small staff are being temporarily detained in St. Helena for the service in question until more permanent arrangements can be made.

Metropolitan Police Holidays.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what would be the extra cost of giving the metropolitan police twenty-one days' annual holiday leave instead of the ten days now allowed; and whether, if the grant of one day off duty in a week is at present impossible for financial reasons, he will consider the granting of a longer annual holiday this year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) To increase the annual leave of the metropolitan police would throw a charge of more than £50,000 a year on the Metropolitan Police Fund besides increasing the charge for police employed at the cost of the Treasury. The income of the metropolitan police force is barely sufficient to meet the present expenditure, and it would be quite impossible to undertake an additional charge of £50,000 a year without exceeding the ninepenny rate limit.

Belfast Buttonhole Workers' Case.

MR. J. DEVLIN (Belfast, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a speech delivered by the Rev. David Purvis at a meeting of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, held in Belfast on 5th June, in which he stated that a buttonhole worker, whose eyesight was beginning to fail, earned only 5s. or 6s. a week; also that a smoother was paid at the rate of one penny per hour and that women earned only 6s. a week by finishing boys' ready-made clothes; and furthermore that the wages of women workers in the city ranged from 7s. to 10s per week of fifty-six or fifty-nine hours; whether the labour of women and girls is worse paid in Belfast than in any other city in the United Kingdom; and whether he will order a special inquiry into the subject, or will arrange for the Commission on Sweating, recently appointed to investigate it thoroughly on the spot.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) My attention has not been called to th speech referred to in the Question So far as home work is concerned, the question of the conditions of labour in those trades in which it is prevalent is as the hon. Member is aware, to be investigated by a Select Committee of this House, and I would suggest that he should bring any information he may have in his possession, which bears on the subject of the injury, to the notice of the Committee.

Post Office Savings Bank Clerks.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that many Post Office Savings Bank clerks were asked, some time before the present Government came into office, whether they would serve in Dublin in case the Irish work was transferred from London to Dublin, he will say how many of such clerks were so asked, and what was the reason for thus asking them.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The hon. Member would appear to be under a misapprehension in supposing that such an inquiry was addressed to any clerks in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Irish Post Office Savings Bank Deposits.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster General whether, seeing that the percentages, or figures immediately leading thereto, of Irish deposits and withdrawals made through British deposit books, and vice versa, have been actually worked out in the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1906, or for a certain quarter or quarters of 1906, he will now order the Controller of the Savings Bank to furnish these percentages for the last available year or quarter; and, if not, will he explain why.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that the percentages of Irish Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals made through British deposit books and *vice versa*, or any figures immediately leading to those percentages, have been worked out for the year 1906 or for any other period. As I have stated in reply to previous Questions addressed to me by the hon. Member, to ascertain these percentages would involve an expenditure of time and labour that does not seem warranted.

South Eastern District Office—Revision of Duties.

Mr. WILES (Islington, S.): To ask the Postmaster General whether the revision of duties at the South Eastern District Office, which has been in course of preparation for the past twelve months, is approaching completion, and if an opportunity for making suggestions both with regard to the hours of attendance as well as the efficient handling of the work will be given to the staff before the revision is finally settled.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The revision proposals have been completed; but, as they will require to be carefully examined, some time may elapse before the revision is carried into effect. The proposals have been framed with due regard to the hours of attendance of the staff and to the efficient handling of the work; but I am, of course, prepared to receive any representation from the staff on these points which they may desire to make.

South Eastern District Office—Sorting Office.

Mr. WILES: To ask the Postmaster General whether the sorting-office accommodation and the retiring rooms at the South-Eastern district office are inadequate for the efficient performance of postal duties as well as for the requirements of the staff; and, if so, when he intends to commence building new offices on the neighbouring premises, which were acquired by the Department two years ago, and are now unused except as a cloak room and standing place for cycles.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is recognised that the accommodation at the South-Eastern District Office calls for improvement. More relief, however, is being obtained by the use of the adjoining premises than appears to be understood by the hon. Member, and I am considering whether still further use cannot be made of them with advantage. Plans for the permanent enlargement of the office have already been prepared, but they will require a good deal of consideration, and I can hardly say at present when building operations are likely to be begun.

Central Telegraph Office.

Sir J. BETHELL (Essex, Romford): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that it has been officially stated that the class of senior telegraphists and overseers at the Central Telegraph Office is a supervising class, he will say if it was recently decided that only those seniors who had passed the technical examination necessary for promotion to the rank of assistant superintendent were to perform supervising duties; whether the men involved supervise others of the same rank who are older in the service; and whether he will state the reasons that have caused this change to be made pending the issue of the Report on Post Office wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Supervising duties are proper to the class of overseers and senior telegraphists in the Central Telegraph Office, and therefore no decision to the effect suggested in the first sentence of the Question has been or could be given. In regard to the second part of the Question, the object of the arrangements in question is to ascertain which are the officers best qualified for promotion, and no more interference takes place with the order of seniority than is necessary to determine this question. I see nothing in this matter that makes it necessary to await the Report of the Select Committee.

Cuban Parcels Post.

Mr. AGNEW (Salford, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General why Great Britain, with its large West Indian trade, and its unequalled shipping facilities, should be compelled to send sample post parcels consigned to Cuba by parcels post, *via* Germany; and why samples, consigned by parcel post to Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador, must go *via* France, or Germany, or Holland.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) In consequence of the difficulties which have been experienced in negotiating agreements with the countries named, without which parcel posts cannot be established, as there would be no arrangements for the delivery of parcels sent from this country, it has been necessary to forward parcels to them by such other means as were available. But arrangements have lately been concluded for a direct parcel post between this country and Peru, and it is proposed to institute the new service on the 1st of next month. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of similar services with Ecuador and Cuba, and it is hoped to arrange for a direct service to Venezuela.

Audit of Irish Accounts.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will furnish a statement showing the number of men employed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the local audit of each of the Irish accounts in the financial year 1906–7, the time thus occupied on each account, the total cost of travelling and subsistence allowance for each account, and the corresponding particulars of the proposed Estimate in 1907–8.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) As regards the first part of the Question I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given on 16th April last on this subject.† The total cost of travelling and subsistence in connection with the local audit of Irish accounts in 1906–7 amounted to about £815, and it is anticipated that about the same amount will be spent in 1907–8.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will grant a statement showing the respective numbers of Irish and English accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General; the respective numbers of Irish and English accounts audited locally throughout the whole year both in London and at the out-stations, and the respective numbers of the men employed on these permanent local audits; the respective numbers of Irish and English accounts, for which duplicate records of payments and other items are kept at the headquarters of the Audit Office on the Victoria Embankment, the respective numbers of men employed on such accounts, and the respective approximate proportions of time devoted to keeping these duplicate records of payments and other items and to auditing these accounts.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The total number of accounts (the Army, Navy, Post Office, etc., each counting as one) audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General is 197, of which forty-four are exclusively Irish. The relative magnitude may be measured by the fact that in the Estimates for 1907–8 the total voted accounts for all services (including those common to Great Britain and Ireland) amount to £110,062,000, of which the purely Irish accounts amount to £4,459,000. The stations at which a permanent local audit is carried out and the number of staff employed are given in the Answer to a Question from the hon. Member of 26th February last.[†] Duplicate records are not kept except in the case of the accounts of the Chancery Suitors Fund (England) in accordance with the directions of the Lord Chancellor and the Treasury.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxii., 740.

Bank of England Balances.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state the sums, whether as current balances or otherwise, of £1,000 or more which have rested for one month or more in the Bank of England in connection with the financing of the Irish Land Act of 1903, with the amounts of interest which those respective sums would yield at 2¾ per cent. per annum, and the total interest, similarly calculated, from 1st November, 1903, to the present time.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The following statement shows, for the period between 1st November, 1903, and the present date, the sums of £1,000 or more which have rested for one month or more in the Irish Land Purchase Fund in the Bank of England, together with the interest which those sums would yield at 2¾ per cent., and the total amount of such interest. In determining the amount remaining in the fund for one month or more, it has been assumed that the withdrawals are taken from the balance which has remained longest on the account.

Date of Receipt at Bank of England.	Date of Withdrawal.	Amount.	Interest at 2¾ per cent.
1904, 25th August - -	1904, 27th September	1,289	3
„ 22nd December -	1905, 24th January -	1,802	5
1905, 8th April - - -	„ 9th to 16th May	287,632	699
„ 14th „ - - -	„ 16th May - -	6,369	15
„ 15th „ - - -	„ „ - - -	2,963	7
„ 12th August	„ 10th October -	301,047	1,720
	„ 14th November		
„ 26th „	„ 14th November -	240,842	1,619
	„ 5th December -		
„ 21st September -	„ 5th December -	1,066	6
„ 5th October - -	„ 5th to 12th Dec.	144,078	528
„ 9th November - -	„ 12th December -	1,007	3
1906, 2nd January - -	1906, 2nd to 6th Feb.	168,013	442
„ 6th April - - -	„ 8th May - -	79,336	191
			£5,238

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1406.

Brixton Land Tax Commissioners.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if his attention has been called to the fact that a considerable number of Land Tax Commissioners in the Brixton Division of Lambeth received no summons to attend the meetings of 8th and 9th April last; if he can reconcile this fact with the information previously supplied to him that summonses had been sent to all the Commissioners in the division; will he state by whom this information was supplied; and will he call the attention of the clerks to the Commissioners in the Brixton Division to the provisions of the Act of 1906, and request them to observe these provisions in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. I am informed that the clerk to the Commissioners for the Third East Brixton Division was under a misapprehension as to the duties imposed upon him by the Act of last session. The steps recommended by my hon. friend in the last part of the Question have now been taken. I regret the inaccuracy of my previous information. It was supplied by the clerk's assistant, who states that he misunderstood the inquiry put to him.

Sugar Imports.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the average importation into the United Kingdom of refined and unrefined sugar, respectively, during the three years ending 1903 and 1906, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*)—

Statement showing the average quantity and value of refined and unrefined sugar imported into the United Kingdom annually during the undermentioned periods—

Period, etc.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwts.	£
Imports of refined sugar:		
Annual average, 1901–3 - -	19,403,661	10,869,461
„ „ 1904–6 - -	16,799,156	10,721,014
Imports of unrefined sugar:		
Annual average, 1901–3 - -	13,085,771	5,637,407
„ „ 1904–6 - -	14,866,158	7,618,612

Australian Wool Imports.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what was the quantity and value of Australian wool imported into the United Kingdom and subsequently re-exported to foreign countries in 1890, 1895, 1900, and 1905–6 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The information asked for is only available for the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, since before 1904 the country of origin of re-exported goods was not recorded. The following table gives the particulars for these years—

Statement showing the registered quantity and value of Australian Sheep and Lambs Wool imported into the United Kingdom and subsequently re-exported to foreign countries and British Possessions, respectively, during each of the years 1904, 1905, and 1906—

Re-exports.	1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
To Foreign Countries - - -	144,372,010	5,841,820	148,600,450	6,138,156	146,022,140	6,495,163
To British Possessions - - -	320,700	12,758	63,000	3,474	32,900	1,807
Total - -	144,692,710	5,854,578	148,663,450	6,141,630	146,055,040	6,496,970

British Commercial Agents.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many commercial agents for the United Kingdom have been appointed to the various Colonies and British Possessions; and whether these appointments are made after consultation with, or with the approval of, the Colonial Governments interested.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) Twenty-one commercial correspondents have been appointed in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Some of these are officers of the Colonial Governments and nominated by them on representations made to the Governments by the Colonial Office. Others have been appointed by the Board of Trade on the nomination of special Commissioners sent by them to these Colonies on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence. In all cases these Commissioners have been instructed to confer with the Colonial Governments concerned. I may add that, as a consequence of discussions at the recent Imperial Conference, the question of the best means of extending and improving the means of obtaining commercial information with respect to the self-governing Colonies for the benefit of traders in the United Kingdom is now under the consideration of the Board of Trade and their Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of these Colonies.

Training Colleges Grants.

MR. W. HOPE (Somersetshire, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is yet in a position to make any statement with regard to the payment of grants in aid of the cost of the provision of hostels in connection with training colleges.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Building grants will be payable in respect of hostels provided by local authorities in connection with a recognised training college, which is either provided by some local education authority or is a department of a University or University college, or is free from denominational restrictions, in manner to be set out in the regulations.

West Riding Education Dispute.

MR. GEORGE GIBBS (Bristol, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether any portion of the legal expense incurred by the West Riding County Council in their litigation in connection with the non-payment of teachers' salaries in non-provided schools has been paid from the Imperial Exchequer; and, if so, what has been the amount of the payment made.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The costs of the solicitors to the West Riding County Council in connection with the appeal to the House of Lords were taxed at £483 8s. and were paid from the Vote for Law Charges.

Kynoch, Limited.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can arrange that the questions in dispute in regard to the use of perchloride of mercury be referred to arbitration, and that the whole of the explosives, the property of Kynoch, Limited, be released.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Answer is in the negative, for reasons which I have already explained very fully in reply to numerous Questions on the subject. I will only add that the delay in bringing this matter to a conclusion is due to Messrs. Kynoch themselves.

Colonel Donaldson's Crassgar Estate.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the estate of Colonel G. M. Donaldson, near Crassgar, county Down, bought in 1904 by the tenants within the zones of the Land Act of 1903, is yet cleared as to title, etc.; or if he can state what position the transaction is now in.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The purchase agreements in this case were lodged with the Estates Commissioners in May 1905. The title has been lodged, and will be read as soon as the case reaches its turn to be dealt with in order of priority.

Castle Archdale Evicted Tenant.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for a holding from Archibald M'Farland, who was evicted, for non-payment of rent, from a holding on the Castle Archdale estate, in the county Fermanagh; have the Commissioners inquired into the application or reported thereon; and have they acquired any lands in county Fermanagh suitable for provision of new holdings for evicted tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have inquired into the application for reinstatement received from Archibald M'Farland, whose former holding has been purchased under the Land Acts by the occupying tenant. The Commissioners have placed M'Farland's name on their list as that of a person suitable to receive an allotment of land. The Commissioners, however, have not yet acquired any untenanted lands in county Fermanagh for the purpose of providing new holdings for such persons.

Irish Land Stock.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether purchasers under the Land Act of 1903 are entitled to pay their annuities as to three-quarters in cash and one-quarter in Land Stock; whether regulations have been made to enable purchasers to buy Land Stock through the Post Office Savings Bank; and, if not, when it is intended to issue such regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The provision referred to in the first part of the Question (s. 2, Act of 1891) applies to all tenant purchasers under the Land Acts. As to the remainder of the Question, I would refer to the Answer given by my hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury, from which it appears that the Treasury are in communication with the Departments concerned in reference to the question of making regulations.

Army Recruits.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, when the new arrangements are completed whereby recruits for the Line will be sent direct to their battalions instead of being retained at the depot, these recruits will be included in the regimental establishment or will be supernumerary to it; and whether the rank and file establishment of 720 for battalions at Home will include the recruits now at the depots.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) All recruits enlisted for Home battalions, whether drilling first of all at the depot or otherwise, are borne on the establishment of the battalion. It is not proposed to make any change in this respect.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Lower Hooe Road, Plymouth.

MR. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the roadway leading from Turnchapel to Lower Hooe, over which the Admiralty claim control, is in a bad condition and almost impassable in wet weather by reason of the mud; whether he is aware that this road is the sole means of access to the railway station enjoyed by the inhabitants of Turnchapel; and whether the Admiralty will put it in order, or whether they have an intention of giving to the inhabitants other means of access to the station.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Admiralty have never admitted any right of way over that portion of the road which they control, and I understand that, though the most direct, it is not the only means of access to the station. Orders have been given for the repair of the Admiralty portion of the road, and negotiations on the subject generally will be opened with the local authority.

Warships in the Persian Gulf.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, under the present distribution of the Fleet, any warship of any description patrols the Persian Gulf.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Under present arrangements the Gunboats "Redbreast" and "Lapwing" and the special-service vessel "Sphinx" are told off for special service in Indian waters, and their principal duties are in the Persian Gulf. Visits to the Gulf are also made by other ships of the East Indies squadron from time to time. At present the "Sphinx" and "Lapwing" are in the Persian Gulf.

China Squadron.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any battleship is included in the China squadron at the present time; and whether, if the Answer be in the negative, the American, French, and German Eastern fleets are in like manner composed exclusively of cruisers, destroyers, and smaller vessels.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: There is no battleship in the China squadron at the present time; and, except the "Redoubtable," a third-class battleship of the French Navy, launched in 1876, in commission at Saigon, and two armoured coast-defence ships of the United States Navy in reserve in the Philippines, the ships composing the French, American, and German squadrons in the Eastern seas are of the classes referred to in the Question.

Chatham Dockyard Discharges.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many men were discharged from the dockyard at Chatham during the year 1906, and how many have been discharged during the present year; and whether any representations have been received on this subject.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The net decrease in numbers in Chatham yard in 1906, taking into account reductions, natural wastage, adjustment of trades and other causes, was 398. Up to the 1st of June of the present year there has been a corresponding net increase of 251. Representations in regard to the work to be allotted to this yard have been made to me by a large and representative deputation introduced by my hon. friend the Member for Rochester, to whom I hope to be able to give an early Answer.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how many men were discharged immediately after the South African War?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I cannot.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the number of discharges in 1904–5 under the late administration?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have not the figures here.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if there is any shipbuilding going on at the present time at Chatham Dockyard, or any work being done there beyond repairs; and what are the intentions of the Admiralty with regard to the building of battleships and cruisers there in the future.

*Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Shipbuilding is going on at the present time at Chatham Dockyard as well as repairs, the armoured cruiser "Shannon" being in course of completion, while several submarines are under construction. The question of what work will be given to this yard will be considered in the preparation of the Estimates for the next financial year.

Mr. FELL: Is it proposed to deepen the channel to enable ships of greater draught to get to the dockyard?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON asked for notice.

Mr. JENKINS asked if the "Shannon" was the only armoured vessel under construction.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Yes, but then four submarines and a number of smaller craft.

The Coastguard.

Major SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the names of the three coastguard stations which have been closed this year, and the dates on which they were closed.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The three stations are: Downderry, closed 25th March, 1907; Cahore, closed 1st May, 1907; Catterline, closed 15th May, 1907. The necessary orders had in all cases been given some months earlier.

Major SEELY: May I ask my right hon. friend whether these dates are not all subsequent to the pledge he gave me that no coastguard stations would be closed till the subject had been discussed in the House?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The pledge which I gave to the House was that no further orders would be issued till the House had an opportunity of considering the Question. The orders to close these stations were all given long before I gave that pledge.

Major SEELY: Can my right hon. friend say how many orders there are now outstanding?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I will give my hon. and gallant friend an Answer if he will put his Question on the Paper.

Major SEELY: Is the number large or small?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I should not like to give a definite number, but I do not think they are many. I will find out and give the hon. Member the number privately this afternoon.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Do any of these orders refer to Ireland?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: They all refer to Ireland, I think.

Accident in a Submarine.

Mr. STANGER (Kensington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is in a position to give the House any information with regard to the reported accident on a submarine at Portsmouth this morning.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I regret to say there has been an accident, and I hold in my hand a telegram received this afternoon from the Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth. The telegram is as follows:—"Regret to report slight explosion this morning on board submarine C 8, whereby Lieutenant Guy Hart was very dangerously injured, and has since died; Thomas O'Connor, E.R.A., and James R. Foster, stoker of the first class, slightly injured. Both of the latter are doing well. Inquiry will be held as soon as possible. Boat was charging batteries at the time."

Naval Summer Cruises.

Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether arrangements will be made for His Majesty's Fleet to visit not only Invergordon but Stornoway and Lochbroom this summer, MR. E. ROBERTSON: Arrangements for the summer cruises of the various squadrons have been completed, and they cannot be altered without inconvenience. The programmes include a visit to Invergordon, but do not include visits to Stornoway and Lochbroom.

Woolwich Discharges.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if any record has been kept of the names and addresses of those artisans recently discharged from Woolwich who have found work in Continental factories, so that in case of emergency their services may be promptly recovered for the nation.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): No record has been kept of the nature mentioned. As far as can be ascertained very few men have gone to Continental factories.

Military Courts-Martial and Sentences.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): On behalf of the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many soldiers were under sentence of courts-martial and detained in His Majesty's prisons on 31st December, 1906; and whether any of such detentions were by order of field courts-martial in the South African War.

MR. HALDANE: Two hundred and thirty-nine soldiers were in prison on 31st December, 1906, under sentence of court-martial. Of these there were six imprisoned by order of field courts-martial in the South African War.

MR. FENWICK: On behalf of the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many soldiers in the Regular Army were tried by courts-martial in 1906; how many trials ended in acquittal; how many men were convicted; and the average term of imprisonment inflicted.

MR. HALDANE: The figures are as follows:—

	Tried.	Acquitted.	Convicted.
General courts-martial -	7	2	5
District courts-martial -	5,343	175	5,168

Of this last number forty were not confirmed or were quashed by the General Officer Commanding and fifty-two were quashed by the Judge Advocate General. The average term of imprisonment inflicted was as follows:—

Penal servitude - - 3·33 years.

Imprisonment with hard labour:—

General court-martial - 18 months.
District court-martial - 87 days.

The cases in which detention was inflicted after trial by district court-martial gave an average of forty-nine days.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Do these figures disclose a terrible state of criminality in the Army, or that the sentences of courts-martial are very terrible?

MR. HALDANE: No, Sir; considering the enormous number of British soldiers under military law in all parts of the world I do not think they are excessive.

Soldiers as Railway Firemen.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that a number of Royal Engineers are being employed on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway as firemen for the purpose of training, at the minimum rate of pay on all classes of work performed by them, and that ordinary firemen are being displaced and promotion checked, and a burden placed on those drivers who have the responsibility of training them; and whether he will arrange with railway companies that such be placed on engines in addition to the ordinary firemen and not in place of them.

MR. HALDANE: Eleven men have been sent for a short course of training as firemen on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, and are being paid by the company at the rate of 3s. 6d. a day, that being the rate which it was understood would be paid to other stokers employed in the same work. I am not aware that ordinary firemen are thereby being displaced, or that their promotion is being checked, nor that any additional burden is placed upon the drivers in the matter of training the military fireman which is not usual and common to the training of all firemen on all railways. The arrangements as to the number of men on engines rest entirely with the company, and the

War Department is not in a position to interfere in the matter.

Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the total sum collected up to date from the people of India for the erection of the Victoria Memorial Hall, in Calcutta; whether he has noticed the remarks made by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, during the Budget debate on 27th March last (page 178 of Blue-book), to the effect that a sum of nearly £70,000 had already been spent on the foundations alone, that there had been a subsidence of the foundations which would endanger the superstructure proposed by Lord Curzon, that there is a growing public opinion in favour of abandoning the original design of a huge hall, and of using the balance of the sum subscribed in providing each province with memorials which, in the Maharaja's own words, shall be fountains of benevolence to the diseased and distressed amongst the poor of the people; whether, in view of this expression of opinion by a well-known representative of the people, he can see his way to postpone further prosecution of the original design pending a plebiscite of the subscribers as to the disposal of the funds in hand; and whether in the event of the Maharaja's proposal being accepted by the subscribers, he will take steps to give effect to it, if necessary, by legislation.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The exact sum subscribed to the Victoria Memorial Hall up to date is not known here. It was reported in 1903 to be about fifty lakhs of rupees (£333,333). The money is not held by Government, nor are the works on the Memorial being carried on by Government establishments. By an Act passed in 1903 the funds collected are vested in a body of trustees, who are charged with the erection, maintenance, and management of the Memorial. I have read the remarks of the Maharaja of Darbhanga referred to in the Question. They will doubtless receive the consideration of the trustees of the Memorial.

MR. SMEATON: Can the right hon. Gentleman induce the Viceroy to give any indication that the Maharaja's representations shall receive attention?

MR. MORLEY: No; I must leave this matter to the Viceroy.

Lala Lajpat Rai.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether there is any source of information which directly connects Lala Lajpat Rai with allegations imputing the poisoning of wells and streams to the Government.

MR. MORLEY: I am not aware of any such information, nor has the statement, so far as I know, been made that Lajpat Rai is connected with the allegations referred to.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): For what crime has this gentleman been arrested and deported?

MR. MORLEY: I cannot say.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can specify any of the speeches of Lala Lajpat Rai which are greatly dominated by sedition and were published broadcast, even on the floor of this House.

MR. MORLEY: The hon. Member's Question is based on an inaccurate report of what I said. As reported by the *Morning Post*, my words were—

> "I will not publish broadcast on the floor of this House language of the kind used by Ajit Singh, which can be reproduced afterwards with perfect impunity and scattered all over India. These malicious incitements to revolt I do not think I can be an instrument in disseminating."

This undoubtedly correctly represents the sense of what I said.

SIR H. COTTON: May I assume that the right hon. Gentleman did not state, as reported in *The Times*, that the speeches of Lala Lajpat Rai were greatly dominated by sedition, and were published broadcast, even on the floor of this House?

MR. MORLEY: I wish the right hon. Gentleman to understand that these are the words that I used. I will not go beyond that.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could now give the House a full list of those arrested in this summary way, and state their places of detention and the manner in which they were being treated. Were they being treated as first-class misdemeanants?

MR. MORLEY: I think the hon. Member will see that that long and intricate Question requires notice.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had asked the same Question some time ago.

MR. MORLEY: I do not see how the Question arises out of the Question on the Paper, and I decline respectfully to answer it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could say whether these gentlemen were treated in the ordinary way as political prisoners or not.

MR. LUPTON asked whether they were to understand that Lala Lajpat Rai had not uttered any seditious speeches, nor suggested that the Government poisoned wells.

MR. MORLEY: I have stated my view of these transactions. I do not quarrel with these Questions, but they do not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Ajit Singh.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether Ajit Singh, who is a very young man of only twenty-three years of age, and has repeatedly made seditious speeches in Lahore and elsewhere without interference, received any warning from the authorities before it was decided to arrest him under the provisions of Regulation 3 of 1818.

MR. MORLEY: I am not aware whether Ajit Singh had received any warning. But every man of the age of twenty-three must know that he makes seditious speeches at his peril.

New Hebrides Convention.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of Mr. Deakin's statement, the Commonwealth was neither invited to submit proposals to the Conference, nor even informed of its nature or progress, or enabled to make an effective suggestion to its conclusions, or in fact was consulted in respect to it in any particular, it is proposed to review the New Hebrides Convention after consultation with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The New Hebrides Convention was discussed with Mr. Deakin and Sir J. Ward during the Colonial Conference. With regard to the conduct of the negotiations which led up to the Convention of the 20th October last, I have to refer the hon. and gallant Member to the Secretary of State's despatches of the 16th November and 7th March last.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: May I ask if, in the face of Mr. Deakin's words quoted in the Question, the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to qualify his statement that the Colonial Governments were fully consulted?

MR. CHURCHILL: I do not think that is the exact expression I used. I should like an opportunity of looking them up, but so far as my recollection serves me I think there is no reason to modify what I said.

Opium Trade in Ceylon.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that those members of the Legislative Council of Ceylon who represent nearly four millions of the inhabitants of the island are opposed to the present method of selling opium through shops licensed for that purpose, whilst the planting interest and the official members of the Council, who only represent 50,000 of the people, are in favour of the existing policy; and whether he will ask the representative of the Crown in Ceylon to take steps to suppress the sale of opium in that Colony.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is in communication with the

Governor of Ceylon as to the consumption of opium in that Colony and he is not in a position to make any statement at present. The subject matter of the hon. Member's Question shall be submitted to the Governor.

Defence of European Settlement in Shanghai.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what force, naval, military, and police, is available at Shanghai for the defence of British merchants and of British trade.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): On December 31st last the force available for the defence of the European community in the international settlement at Shanghai was as follows:—Volunteers, forty-four officers and 930 non-commissioned officers and men. Police, European, 130; Indian, 201; Chinese, 753. In addition foreign warships of small draught can ascend the river as far as Shanghai, and larger ships can get to within fifteen miles of Shanghai. It frequently happens that one or more foreign warships are lying in the river.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Is there any artillery there?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot say.

Great Britain and Russia.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): On behalf of the hon. Member for Leicester, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his negotiations with Russia relate to matters other than boundaries, and are concerned with general political relationships.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The direct object of the negotiations is to prevent conflict and difficulties between the two Powers in the part of Asia which affects the Indian frontier and the Russian frontiers in that region. If these negotiations result in an agreement, it will deal only with these questions. What the indirect result will be as regards general political relationships must depend upon how such an agreement works in practice, and what effect it has upon public opinion in both countries.

Chinese Government and Mr. Eadie.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that Mr. Edward Eadie, who was assaulted by Chinese on 18th June, 1906, is still without the compensation which was asked from the Chinese Government for him as an act of grace; and whether the said Mr. Eadie, who is still sick and in need of medical treatment, should accept the offer he has had from the Taotai of Amoy of payment of his medical expenses, or whether he should wait a further interval for such compensation as may be paid by the Chinese Government.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Chinese authorities have agreed, as an act of grace, to pay a sum of 11,000 dollars in compensation for the injuries inflicted upon Mr. Eadie and his companion, Dr. Horne. Of this sum it is proposed that Dr. Horne, who was much more seriously injured, should receive 10,000 dollars. Mr. Eadie will therefore receive a sum of 1,000 dollars.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, if this country, while declining to enforce a penal clause against bounty-fed sugar, still adheres to the Brussels Convention, it will still be necessary for all sugar imported into this country to be accompanied by a certificate of origin; and whether it is proposed to ask this House to continue to provide part of the expenses of the Permanent Commission sitting in Brussels.

SIR EDWARD GREY: In the event of the other contracting States agreeing to exempt this country by supplementary protocol from the obligation to enforce the penal clause of the Sugar Convention, the question how far it would still be necessary or expedient to require imported sugar to be accompanied by a certificate of origin would receive careful consideration. So long as this country continued to take part in the modified Convention, it would naturally contribute its share of the expenses of the Permanent Commission, which are not considerable.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government proposes to ask Parliament to repeal the Sugar Convention Act, 1903, and, failing such repeal, whether it will not be competent for His Majesty's present or future advisers at any time during the continuance of the Brussels Convention to prohibit by Order in Council the importation into this country of sugar which the Permanent Commission sitting in Brussols declares to be bounty-fed.

SIR EDWARD GREY: It is premature at present to consider the question of amending or repealing the Sugar Convention Act, and I therefore cannot deal with the legal point raised in the last part of the Question, which depends upon it.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the production of cane sugar in the West Indies and other parts of the world is appreciably increasing, and that our exports of confectionery in 1906 were approximately 25 per cent. higher than those of 1904 and 1905; and whether, under these circumstances, His Majesty's Government propose to risk the break-up of the Sugar Convention and a reversal to the system of bounties and cartels.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am aware that the total production of cane sugar has considerably increased in recent years (although this can scarcely be said of the production of the British West Indies taken as a whole) and that our exports of confectionery have also increased approximately as stated. As regards the last part of the Question, I have nothing to add to the statement I made to the House on the 6th instant.† The risk involved in the course taken by His Majesty's Government is a matter of opinion.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): Is the right hon. Gentleman also aware that the manufacture of sugar in our Colonies leads to a large demand for the manufacture of machinery in this country for the industry in beet producing countries?

*THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member must give notice of the Question.

MR. STEWART (Greenock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has information of any change of attitude to the Brussels Convention on the part of those foreign States who are favourable to it as it now stands consequent upon the modifications of the terms of the British adherence thereto; and whether in the interests of the sugar-refining industry and its allied and dependent trades, which were adversely affected by the foreign bounty system and which are suffering by the prevailing uncertainty whether there will be a return to it, he will give the House, at the earliest moment, any information of which he is or may become possessed of any impending change of position on the part of any of the signatory Powers.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. I will bear in mind the hon. Member's suggestion, and shall be glad to give definite information when there is any, but I would remind him that no change will in any case take place before September, 1908.

Missing Camel Corps.

MR. KETTLE (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state the circumstances under which certain members of a Camel Corps, which left Bir Natron Government post some six weeks ago, lost their way and perished in the desert; what were the numbers and composition of the corps; how many men are known to have lost their lives and how many are missing; and what steps were taken by the responsible authorities to succour and rescue them, and to notify the Egyptian public of their fate.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The latest information in my possession respecting this matter is that No. 2 Company Camel Corps, under Bimbashi Whittingham, left for Bir Natron during February, one section being intended to be stationed there and another at a post then not yet selected. It was anticipated that their presence there would serve as a deterrent to any future raiding and counter-raiding.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxv., 838.

I will make inquiries as to the points raised by the hon. Member.

France and Siam.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is now in a position to communicate to the House the terms of the recent treaty between France and Siam.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I hope to lay the text of the Treaty at an early date.

Unclaimed Funds and Old Age Pensions.

MR. PARKER (Halifax): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the funds among the bankers of England representing unclaimed moneys; what is the approximate amount of such funds; and whether, as such moneys cannot be legally claimed by the bankers, he will consider the advisability of appropriating them on behalf of the State, and, after allowing a sufficient sum to meet any possible liabilities to possible claimants, to set aside the available balances for old-age pensions.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Mr. ASQUITH): I have no statistics of the amount of unclaimed moneys in the hands of bankers or of other persons or institutions other than Government Departments. The question of appropriating such funds for public purposes has often been considered, but such investigation as has been possible has tended to show that the total amount in question is probably much smaller than is popularly supposed; and, in view of this fact and of the practical difficulties connected with the necessity which would arise for indemnifying those at present responsible to possible claimants against future claims, it has not been thought desirable to attempt to deal with the matter by legislation.

Unclaimed Dividends and Old Age Pensions.

MR. PARKER: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the approximate amount of the sums in the hands of the Government arising from unclaimed dividends and other unclaimed moneys in the Bank of England; and whether he will consider the possibility of appropriating all or part of such unclaimed money for the purpose of old-age pensions.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The total nominal value of stock and cash in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners to the credit of the unclaimed stock and dividends account on the 31st March last was £1,841,986. This amount is not, in my opinion, in excess of a reasonable reserve against the liabilities to claimants.

Chancery Funds and Old Age Pensions.

MR. PARKER: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the amount of the unclaimed money now held in the Court of Chancery; and whether he has considered the advisability of utilising such unclaimed moneys for the purpose of adding to the sum provided in the Budget for providing pensions for the aged poor.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The aggregate amount of dormant or unclaimed funds in Court (including the Court of Chancery) is stated in the last triennial list published as a supplement to the *London Gazette* of 1st March, 1905, to have been on that date less than £1,000,000, distributed over more than 3,300 separate accounts; and I do not think any appreciable contribution could be obtained from this source for the purpose which the hon. Member has in view.

Royal Patriotic Fund.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received from the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation any application for a Treasury grant of money in aid of the funds of the said corporation; and what answer has been returned.

MR. RUNCIMAN: An application was received in March last, and the reply of the Treasury was to the effect that, after considering the question in consultation with the War Office, they did not feel able to depart from a previous decision that they would not be justified in asking Parliament to provide by Vote any sum to supplement the present available resources of the fund.

Income Tax on Literary Prizes.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether income tax is at present charged on monetary prizes gained for literary work or otherwise; and whether the same rule will apply under the new Finance Bill if it becomes law.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The question is one of assessment, which has to be determined by the Commissioners of Income Tax with respect to the circumstances of particular cases, but a monetary prize in the form of a single payment would not, as a rule, be chargeable, unless the circumstances were such as to render it part of the profits of the profession or vocation of the winner. The rules in this matter will not be affected by the Finance Bill, except when a chargeable receipt may fall within the definition of earned income.

MR. WATT: How is it prizes of a similar nature have been taxed?

MR. RUNCIMAN: That is a matter for the Income Tax Commissioners. Each case is decided on its merits.

Consolidated Stock.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the £44,288 given in Return No. 155, just issued, is the total sum employed by the Treasury for the purchase of 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock in the past financial year; and, if so, why a larger proportion of the sum available for the cancellation of the National Debt was not devoted to the purchase of this class of stock.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The sum of £44,288 given in the Return was the total sum applied out of the old and new Sinking Fund moneys to the cancellation of Consols in the last financial year. In the circumstances of the time, it was considered preferable to apply these funds mainly to the extinction of Unfunded Debt. Accordingly, Treasury Bills to the amount of £3,500,000 were paid off, and Exchequer Bonds to the amount of over £4,400,000 were bought and cancelled, in addition to the £1,000,000 of Exchequer Bonds drawn and redeemed under the scheme inaugurated by the right hon. Member for East Worcestershire. There were, however, other funds available for the reduction of Funded Debt during the year besides the old and new Sinking Funds, namely, the receipts in respect of Life Annuities, Redemption of Land Tax, the China Indemnity, and other miscellaneous items. Consols were cancelled with these receipts to the amount of £1,819,258, making the total reduction in the amount of Consols outstanding £1,871,165.

Pwllheli Land Tax Commissioners.

MR. ELLIS DAVIES (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a meeting of the Land Tax Commissioners for South Carnarvonshire, Pwllheli District, has been called; if so, why none of the recently appointed Commissioners received notice of the meeting; and, if the meeting did take place under the circumstances related, whether it is proposed to call another meeting to do the work entrusted to the Commissioners as a body.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I understand that the clerk to the Commissioners was unaware of his duties under the Act. A notification of them, which was sent to him as to all other clerks to Land Tax Commissioners, apparently failed to reach him, but this regrettable accident has now been rectified, and I have little doubt that the provisions of the Act will be complied with in future. The last part of the Question is a matter for the decision of the Land Tax Commissioners themselves.

Secretary to the Board of Customs.

MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state on what grounds the service of the Secretary of the Board of Customs has been extended beyond the usual period.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The officer in question has been entrusted with the execution of a particular duty which is approaching completion, and it has been found that the transfer of the work to another officer who is necessarily less familiar with it would be attended with inconvenience.

The Government and Messrs. Kynoch.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can now state how many firms, and give their names, other than Messrs. Kynoch were found to be using a percentage of mercury in the manufacture of explosives; if he can state on what date these manufacturers ceased to manufacture these explosives; if he can state the number of pounds, if any, of such explosive these manufacturers had in their possession on such date; if he can state whether, in the public interest or in the interest of public safety, he has seized these explosives, or, if not, has he allowed them to go into use in the ordinary way.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): One other firm—the National Explosives Company, not Messrs. Eley, as I was erroneously reported to have said the other day—is known to have used mercuric chloride in their explosives. I believe they ceased to do so towards the end of last year. I have no knowledge of the quantity of explosive which was then in their possession. At the present time a large quantity of explosive containing mercury, belonging to this firm, is under seizure.

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the magazine at Cardiff belonging to Messrs. Kynoch, licensed for 30,000lbs. of explosives, held 23,000lbs. when seized; if of this 23,000lbs. only very little contains the ingredient complained of; whether under the terms of the seizure the magazine is and has been since the date of the seizure devoted to the use of the Secretary of State, and cannot be utilised by Messrs. Kynoch for storage purposes; and whether, in view of the dislocation of trade caused by the Home Office action, he can see his way to allow the explosives in this magazine, other than the particular explosives complained of, to be put into use in the ordinary way.

MR. GLADSTONE: 23,000lbs. of explosive were seized in the magazine mentioned. Mercuric chloride was found by His Majesty's Inspectors in several samples taken from this magazine, but they are unable to say in what proportion of the whole the ingredient is present, as necessarily only samples were examined. Messrs. Kynoch are not prohibited from using the magazine up to the limit of quantity allowed by the licence; and there remains therefore a surplus of licensed capacity at their disposal. The inconvenience, if any, to Messrs. Kynoch's trade is not due to the action of my Department, inasmuch as the case in connection with this magazine would have been disposed of several months ago but for the postponements which Messrs. Kynoch have themselves obtained. In these circumstances, the whole of the explosive must, I fear, remain under seizure until the matter is settled.

MR. MOONEY asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would consider the advisability either of taking Messrs. Kynoch's assurances as regarded the explosives which were in this magazine or of having the matter tested so that the explosive which did not contain the unauthorised ingredient could be used.

MR. GLADSTONE: I do not know what Messrs. Kynoch's assurances are.

MR. MOONEY: Has the right hon. Gentleman not read the letter forwarded to his Department as far back as 13th May by Messrs. Kynoch's solicitors?

MR. GLADSTONE: The correspondence is becoming voluminous, but I do not quite see how Messrs. Kynoch's assurances that this explosive, or part of it, may be safe bears on the point of the action taken by my Department, which is that samples taken from this particular magazine showed that a large part of the explosive in the magazine contained mercury, and, in my judgment, it is clearly impossible to allow that explosive to be taken from that magazine.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he could say when this matter would be settled one way or the other.

MR. GLADSTONE: I should be very glad to settle it at once, but Messrs. Kynoch have resorted to the law, and I am not in a position to settle it.

MR. MOONEY asked whether it was not a fact that, in the letter to which he had referred, Messrs. Kynoch stated that there was a certain amount of the explosive in this magazine containing the ingredient which the Home Office complained of, but that there was also in the magazine a very large amount of explosive which, they assured the Home Office, had not been treated in the same way, and whether they asked the Home Office to allow them to use that portion and not to lock up the explosive which was manufactured in accordance with the licence of the Home Office.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I think the hon. Member is correct, but the whole case is still under the consideration of the Court, and by the judgment of the Court, as far as it has gone, all this cordite is liable to seizure. The question cannot be determined until the legal proceedings are concluded.

Mr. MOONEY: Is it not the fact that the whole case before the Court at the present time is whether or not Messrs. Kynoch used in the manufacture of certain cordite an unauthorised ingredient; and what I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman is whether, while the appeal of Messrs. Kynoch as regards the unauthorised cordite is pending, they are to be made to suffer by having the cordite which does not contain any unauthorised ingredient also seized by the Home Office?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I do not think the hon. Member has stated the case quite accurately. Messrs. Kynoch admit, as I understand, that there was a certain amount of mercuric chloride in this explosive. Their point now is that the amount of mercury is so small as to be innocuous. Our contention is that any mercury put into this explosive is against the law and renders the explosive dangerous.

Mr. MOORE (Armagh, N.) asked whether the 23,000lbs. which the Government were now impounding was safe while it was there.

Mr. GLADSTONE: As the hon. Member is aware, magazines are only authorised under certain conditions, and, though it is not very pleasant to have an explosion in a magazine, if it does occur it is reasonably safe, and the prescribed distance practically secures safety to life and limb.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked whether, in view of the fact that the complaint only referred to a certain portion of the explosive in this magazine, the Home Office had authority to remove that portion of the explosive, and thereby free the magazines for the general business of the company.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he could not add anything to the Answer he had given to the supplementary Question of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University.

Mr. MOORE rose to put a further Question.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. Notice must be given of any further Questions.

Workmen's Compensation Act—Women Referees.

Mr. H. J. WILSON (Yorks., W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has taken, or will take, into consideration the propriety of appointing some women medical referees under the Workmen's Compensation Act which comes into force on the 1st July, especially in cases or districts where women are largely employed.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I am not aware that any necessity for such appointments has been found to exist under the Act of 1897, which applied to a large number of women employed in factories, but I shall be glad to take the matter into consideration.

London Police Rest Day.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has now prepared the detailed statement and estimate to which he referred on the 26th November last, showing the effect of granting one day's rest in seven to the Metropolitan Police; and, if so, will he lay it upon the Table.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I think it will be most convenient if I give these details in the form of a printed answer, and this I shall be happy to do if my hon. friend will put down an unstarred question for one day next week.

Edalji Trial.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Walton Division of Liverpool, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Edalji Committee were informed that notes of the trial had been taken by the deputy chairman, and that the Home Office had thought it worth while to require such notes for inspection; whether such notes contain the most authentic and reliable account of the proceedings which is in existence; and whether in fact they were found useful by the Home Office.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Sir Arthur Wilson and his colleagues were aware that the deputy chairman's notes has been sent to the Home Office and that they had been returned to him. The notes were of course authentic and reliable: but they were abbreviated and somewhat fragmentary, and though most useful to anyone who had heard the evidence for the purpose of refreshing his memory, were not in my opinion of great use to anyone who had to master the facts of the case for the first time.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what principle compensation has been given in previous instances to persons to whom a free pardon has not been given, whereas in the case of Edalji a free pardon has been given, but compensation has been withheld.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Each case has been considered on its merits. In a few instances small sums have been given by my predecessors by way of compassionate grant where the circumstances of the case did not appear to justify the grant of a free pardon. Such cases have, however, been wholly exceptional and do not establish any principle on which a claim for compensation could be based.

Grimsby Immigration Case.

Major SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the husband of Monita Czeplowski, a woman who was rejected last March by the Grimsby Immigration Board on the ground, amongst others, that her husband could not be found, is residing at New Ortiston, Scotland, is anxious to have his wife restored to him, and able to support her; and whether he can undertake that if Monita Czeplowski, while not suffering from any dangerous infectious disease, again attempts to rejoin her husband she shall not be denied admittance under the Aliens Act.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have no information to the effect of the first part of the Question, and in no case could I give any such undertaking as that which is suggested in the latter part. The admission or rejection of alien immigrants does not rest with me but with the immigration authorities at the ports. I may remind my hon. and gallant friend that the woman was found in March to be suffering from trachoma in an advanced and dangerous stage, and I am unable to agree with the view which he then expressed that aliens suffering from dangerous and contagious diseases ought to be admitted to this country.

Major SEELY: If I furnish the right hon. Gentleman with evidence as to the whereabouts of the man and showing that the woman is not suffering from a dangerous infectious disease, will the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance she shall be enabled to join her husband?

Mr. GLADSTONE: The hon. and gallant Member is, I think, as well acquainted with the Aliens Act as I am, and he must know that the decision rests not with me, but with the Immigration Board.

Tobacco Stripping Industry.

Mr. LEVERTON HARRIS (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can give any information which will show approximately the number of persons employed in stripping tobacco leaves in manufactories in the United Kingdom in March, 1906, and in March, 1907.

I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the respective values and quantities of stripped and unstripped tobacco leaves imported into the United Kingdom during the year ending 31st March, 1906, and for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): The Board of Trade are unable to give the information asked for in the hon. Member's first Question. I will have the particulars asked for in the second Question printed in the Votes.

The particulars referred to were as follows:—

Statement showing the quantity and value of unmanufactured tobacco imported into the United Kingdom during each of the years ended 31st March, 1906 and 1907, distinguishing between stemmed and unstemmed tobacco.

Tobacco, Unmanufactured.	Quantity Imported.		Value of Imports.	
	1905–6.	1906–7.	1905–6.	1906–7.
	lbs.	lbs.	£	£
Stemmed - - - -	12,170,000	26,392,000	355,000	823,000
Unstemmed - - -	75,837,000	87,563,000	1,971,000	2,312,000

Note.—The value is stated exclusive of duty.

Registration of Steamships.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that the International Mercantile Marine Company, which has its head office at Hoboken, New Jersey, U.S A., owns or controls the following steamship lines, the White Star, Red Star, American, Leyland, Atlantic Transport, and Dominion, he will explain why the Board of Trade Shipping Returns include the White Star among the British ships without any note or explanation.

MR. KEARLEY: As explained to the hon. Member in an Answer which my right hon. friend gave to a Question by him on the 27th May, all vessels registered as British are classed as such in the compilation of the official Shipping Returns. This is the general practice of all maritime countries. The vessels of the White Star Line are registered British vessels. Possibly the hon. Member would profit by a careful perusal of the agreement embodied in the Parliamentary Paper Cd. 1704.

AN HON. MEMBER asked if it were not the fact that the International Mercantile Marine and the White Star Line were entirely controlled by British subjects living in this country.

[No Answer was returned.]

Cost of Sugar Production.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has any information relative to the cost of production of sugar in Germany, France, and other Continental countries; and, if so, will he lay such information before the House.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade are not able to give any official figures on this subject. The cost of production of sugar or any other commodity in different countries varies according to methods and sale of production, and other considerations.

Colonial Chambers of Commerce and the Sugar Convention.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any representations have been received by His Majesty's Government in favour of the continuance of the Sugar Convention from chambers of commerce in different parts of the Empire; and, if so, from what chambers of commerce?

MR. KEARLEY: No representations in favour of the continuance of the Sugar Convention have been received by the Board of Trade from any chamber of commerce in the United Kingdom, but I am informed by the Colonial Office that such representations have reached them from various chambers of commerce in the Colonies, a list of which they can give if desired.

Cowper-Temple Clause.

MR. MASSIE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will make compliance with the Cowper-Temple clause (Section 14 of the Education Act, 1870) one of the conditions to be fulfilled by all public elementary council schools in order to obtain a Parliamentary grant, or whether he will at once take some other steps to obtain the power of enforcing strict obedience to this clause on the part of all local education authorities.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): On my reading of the Code the Board already have power to make compliance with the Cowper-Temple clause a condition for the receipt of Parliamentary grants.

Great Crosby Halsall Girls' School.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education, on what grounds he refuses permission to the trustees of the Great Crosby Halsall Girls' School to utilise their funds in extending the girls' and infants' school on plans which have been approved by the Lancashire education authority; and what scheme is now under his consideration for utilising the funds to a better purpose than the extension of the schools.

MR. MCKENNA: The Board informed the trustees of the Great Crosby Halsall Girls' School on the 25th May that as at present advised they were not prepared to entertain proposals for an expenditure of the capital funds of the endowment upon the extension of the premises of the elementary school of the foundation. A scheme for the reorganisation of this endowment is now in course of preparation, and I hope very shortly to be in a position to give directions for a draft to be communicated for the information of the trustees of the foundation and the local education authority with a view to its subsequent publication in the locality under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Acts. It will be the duty of the Board to consider any objections or suggestions that may be made to them by any parties interested. I consider that at the present stage of the proceedings it would be premature to make any further statement in the matter.

Registration of British Trawlers.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that it is the practice of British-owned trawlers to register their vessels under a foreign flag for the purpose of evading British laws, will the question of rendering such action illegal be considered by the delegates attending the International North Sea Conference which is about to be opened.

THE TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Somersetshire, S.): The work of the International Council for the exploration of the sea, which is now meeting in London, is purely scientific in character, and the question to which my hon. friend refers is not likely, therefore, to come forward for consideration.

Teachers' Superannuation.

SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the Report of the actuary upon the operation of the Teachers' Superannuation Act will be ready before the Education (Scotland) Bill is proceeded with; and whether it will deal separately with the funds for England and Scotland, respectively.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, Yorkshire, Cleveland): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer his Question for him. There is some doubt as to whether this Report will be ready as is suggested; and, so far as his information goes, it is not in a state sufficiently advanced to enable him to reply to the hon. Gentleman's latter Question.

Island of Lewis Cottars.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will consider the expediency of asking the Lewis District Committee to submit a list of cottars and others resident in the townships in the Island of Lewis who would be willing to migrate to the mainland if the Congested

Districts Board arranged reasonable aid for their settlement.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (for Mr. SINCLAIR): As my right hon. friend has already informed my hon. friend on previous occasions, any proposals made to the Congested Districts Board will receive their careful consideration.

Dwellings in Congested Districts.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that under Clause 6 of the Small Landowners (Scotland) Bill, now before Parliament, it is proposed to enable the Congested Districts Board to improve or rebuild dwelling-houses and other buildings in congested districts, will he consider the expediency of arranging for the Board to be provided with additional funds so as to enable the Board to put into effect any such new powers.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (for Mr. SINCLAIR): If it is found by experience that the monies provided are not sufficient for their purpose and should be increased, the matter shall certainly be considered.

Irish Agricultural Department.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has yet made its Report to the Lord-Lieutenant; and, if so, what is the reason for the delay in laying it upon the Table of the House, as was promised would be done when the Report was received.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The Report of the majority of the Commissioners has now been received, but, as I have already informed the House, a minority Report is also to be presented. It seems desirable that the two Reports should be laid before the House at the same time. I am assured that the minority Report will be submitted in the course of next week, and I will then have both Reports presented to Parliament without delay.

Lord Ventry's Estate.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that at a meeting of Lord Ventry's tenants on his county Kerry estates a resolution was passed on the advice of Mr. William O'Brien, rural district councillor, pledging themselves to pay no rent until Lord Ventry had agreed to sell to them; and if the Government will support Lord Ventry against such intimidation.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that a meeting of Lord Ventry's tenants was held on 19th May, but that no resolution of the nature indicated in the Question was passed. Mr. O'Brien, however, is reported to have said that if Lord Ventry should not sell the tenants need not pay. If any protection to Lord Ventry in the exercise of his legal rights should hereafter become necessary, the police will, of course, afford such protection, as they do in all cases.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Why cannot this noble Lord sell his estates to the tenants under the best Land Act ever passed by the House of Commons in the interests of the Irish landlords?

[No Answer was returned.]

Land Law (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he proposes to submit to the Standing Committee B any Amendments to the Land Law (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill; and whether he proposes to give notice of them at an early date, in order that Members of the Committee may have due opportunity of considering them.

MR. BIRRELL: As the hon. Baronet is aware, the Bill referred to is not a Government measure. If the Government should decide to propose any Amendments due notice will be given, and hon. Members will have full opportunity of considering them.

Unrest in Irelend.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that certain powers contained in The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, such as the power to hold a preliminary inquiry, the summary jurisdiction powers, the power to enrol special jurors and to remove the venue of trial, have long formed part of the ordinary law of Scotland; and whether, in view of the present difficulty of maintaining order in Ireland, he will cause such parts of the Irish Act as are identical with Scottish law to be put in force immediately.

MR. BIRRELL: The Government still have confidence in the ordinary law, properly and impartially administered. There are several prosecutions for offences connected with grazing lands pending for the Assizes which will be held next month. The Attorney-General intends to prosecute in person in at all events some of these cases; and in these circumstances the Government do not propose, as at present advised, to take the course suggested in the Question.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) asked whether the Government had confidence that the law would be properly and impartially administered.

MR. BIRRELL: We still have confidence in the ordinary law, properly and impartially administered.

MR. MOORE asked whether, if these prosecutions resulted in disagreement and miscarriage of justice, the Government would take further measures.

MR. BIRRELL: The Government will act on events when they happen.

MR. FLAVIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that the panels for those trials are composed entirely of Hottentots?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that when the Irish Coercion Act referred to by the noble Lord was under debate in this House the late Mr. J. B. Balfour stated that no similar power existed in Scotland, and that as an ex-Lord Advocate he did not think those who had taken part in he administrations of the criminal law would tolerate such a practice as that of xamining on oath persons in respect of crime for which no one was being harged.

MR. BIRRELL: I have not had an opportunity of confirming that, but no doubt the statement is characterised by the usual accuracy of the hon. Member. [Ironical laughter.] Well, I think the hon. Member is usually very accurate.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a circular has been issued to Crown solicitors in certain disturbed districts in Ireland, instructing them not to press for punishment by imprisonment, but for a rule of bail only, in certain cases connected with agrarian offences.

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners are making overtures in the West of Ireland for the purchase of grass lands which the owners are unable to stock owing to the disturbed state of the country; whether it has come to his knowlege that, in consequence of the action of the United Irish League and similar agencies, these lands have considerably depreciated in value; and whether he will instruct the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board that they are to cease from taking advantage of the present agrarian disturbance by endeavouring to purchase from the embarrassed owners lands thus artificially reduced below their fair market value.

MR. BIRRELL: The more of the grass lands in the West of Ireland that the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners are able to buy the better pleased I shall be. I have no information that any such lands have depreciated in value for the reasons alleged in the Question. In estimating the price which they may offer for a particular property, neither the Board nor the Commissioners are influenced by any such consideration as is mentioned in the concluding part of the Question. They offer what they consider to be the value of the land for the purposes entrusted to them by Parliament, and this is ascertained by inspection of the land itself.

Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. P. J. Kelly, a justice of the peace, at a meeting held at New Inn, county Galway, a few days ago, speaking of Lord Ashtown, who has incurred the displeasure of the United Irish League and is under constant and strict police protection, said that if he (Lord Ashtown) was living in the neighbourhood of Killenadeema or Loughrea they would have had him on a stretcher long ago, the same as John Blake (who was shot dead in Loughrea in 1883), but that the men of Woodlawn had not the courage or manliness to treat him as they should; whether Kelly will be prosecuted for this incitement to murder; and whether he will at once be removed from the magistracy.

Mr. BIRRELL: Mr. Kelly's speech is at present under the consideration of the Government.

Lisburn Labourers' Cottage Rents.

Mr LIDDELL (Down, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Lisburn Rural Council have raised the rent of labourers' cottages in the Hillsborough part of the Lisburn Rural District from 1s. weekly to 2s, 6d., and have served notice to quit on all tenant labourers who have refused to pay this increased rent; if this course has been adopted to discourage further applications under the Labourers Acts, and if the Irish Local Government Board will intervene in the matter.

Mr. BIRRELL: According to the records of the Local Government Board, the Lisburn Rural District Council have resolved to raise the rents of labourers' cottages, but not to the extent stated in the Question. The council propose to raise rents of 1s. 6d. a week to 2s. and rents of 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. The Local Government Board have no information as to the reasons which may have influenced the council in adopting this course, but are about to communicate with the council on the subject.

Toomebridge Petty Sessions Clerk.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that William Ellis, who is petty sessions clerk of Toomebridge, county Antrim, also holds the following positions: postmaster of Toomebridge, manager of Toome and Kilree eel fishery, manager of Killsegour Mines, Toome, land agent for Miss Jones, Moneyglass estate, land agent for Lady Spencer, Castledawson estate, and a contractor for sand; whether he is absent from Toome on Wednesdays in connection with the Kilree eel fishery, and on Saturday in each week in connection with others of his offices; and discharges some of his duties as petty sessions clerk by deputy; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Mr. BIRRELL: I find that a similar Question as to this petty sessions clerk was answered on 26th July last[†] by my predecessor, who had fully inquired into the matter. The facts are as stated in the Question, save that the clerk does not perform any of his duties by deputy. The petty sessions are held but once a month, and consequently the duties of the clerk are light and the salary proportionately small. The registrar of petty sessions clerks has satisfied himself by personal inspection that the clerk properly performs his duties, and no complaint to the contrary has been made by the public. In these circumstances no action appears to be called for.

Butson Estate, Clonfert.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners intend to purchase the entire Butson estate at Clonfert, county Galway; and, if purchase is completed, will they enlarge all the small holdings upon the estate, and, in addition give new holdings to those who require them in the district.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners are negotiating for the purchase of 2,084 acres of tenanted land, 1,100 acres of untenanted land, and 906 acres of bog land, comprised in the estate referred to in the Question. If the Commissioners should acquire the untenanted lands, they will duly consider the claims of the tenants on the estate and of other local applicants.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clxi., 1442.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): In the meantime will the police protection be real and effective and not a mere adjunct?

MR. BIRRELL: The police protection is as real and effective as is possible under the circumstances.

Dublin Police Instructions.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the order issued by the Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, on the 19th December, 1902, instructing his men that where they observed a drunken person enter a licensed house it was their duty to follow him and call the attention of the proprietor or his assistants in charge to his condition, is still in force; and, if so, will he explain why Inspector Cushion stated on oath, during the hearing of a licensing persecution, on the 31st May, 1907, that the instructions contained in the order did not apply to ordinary police constables as distinguished from other members of the force of a higher grade.

MR. BIRRELL: The order referred to is still in force. The latter part of the Question appears to be put through a misapprehension of the facts. The Chief Commissioner informs me that the inspector did not give evidence to the effect stated, and did not in fact refer to the order at all.

Old Canal Banks, Banagher.

MR. REDDY (Kings' County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it was with the authority of the Board of Public Works that the strip of ground, known as the Old Canal Banks, alongside the Shannon at Banagher, King's County, was closed against the public; and whether the ground in question had been used as a public park for over sixty years.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I understand that the piece of land in question is the Board's property, and is let for grazing to the Board's collector at Banagher. At no time has it been open to the public.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.(

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following fourteen Members from Standing Committee B (added in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Mr. Du Cros, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Bennett, Sir Edward Tennant, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Marnham, Mr. Duncan Schwann, Viscount Turnour, Mr. Lynch, Mr. William Pearce, and Mr. Whitwell Wilson; and had appointed in substitution the following fourteen Members (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Mr. Cave, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Leif Jones, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Charles Corbett, Mr. Clough, Major Dunne, and Sir Howard Vincent.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill):—Sir Thomas Whittaker, Mr. Bright, Mr. Duckworth, and Mr. Barnard; and had appointed in substitution (in respect of the Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) Bill): Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Acland Allen, and Mr. Toulmin.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee B (in respect of the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. David Alfred Thomas; and had appointed in substitution (in respect to the Criminal Appeal Bill): Mr. Holt.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

John Gretton, esquire, for the County of Rutland.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the Court in relation to Maintenance and Alimony, and leave to intervene." [Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [LORDS.]

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 233.]

NEW BILLS.

EDUCATION BILL.

"To amend the Education (England and Wales) Act, 1902, and to provide for more effectual local public control in regard to Education in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Verney; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. George White, Mr. Morrell, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Whitbread; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 234.]

CREDIT BANKS BILL.

"To facilitate the formation of Thrift and Credit Banks," presented by Sir John Brunner; supported by Sir William Anson, Mr. John Robertson, and Mr. Helme; to be read a second time upon Monday, 24th June, and to be printed. [Bill 235.]

LUNACY (IRELAND) BILL.

"To correct a verbal error in Section 6 of The Lunacy (Ireland) Act, 1901, presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 236.]

NAVIGATION WORKS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To facilitate the execution of Navigation Works in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 237.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. Secretary Morley.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL).

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House).—(*Mr. Secretary Morley.*)

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.) asked leave to introduce a Bill to make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several provinces of the Dominion. He would state very briefly the reasons for bringing in this Bill, which was in no sense a Party measure, which was not of great importance to the people of this country, but which had excited a great deal of interest in Canada. Under the British North America Act, 1867, the Dominion of Canada agreed to pay to the provincial Governments certain sums of money in aid of their local and provincial expenditure. The arrangement then made afterwards proved to be inadequate, and in 1887 a conference of all the provinces held at Quebec agreed to a revised scale of payment. The resolutions passed at that conference were re-affirmed by all the States in 1902, and the Federal Government called a conference in 1906 at Ottawa, where all the States were represented. At this conference there was unanimous agreement by all States in the adoption of the proposals embodied in this Bill, with the exception of British Columbia, which claimed to be entitled to special consideration and asked for a larger subvention than had been allocated to it. This claim was recognised by other members of the conference, and an additional sum of 100,000 dollars was granted for a period of ten years. The Government of British Columbia, however, was not satisfied, and on the 25th March, 1907, the Parliament of British Columbia passed a resolution protesting against the settlement being regarded as final and irrevocable. They also laid before His Majesty a petition asking that, in any legislation to give effect to the Ottawa resolutions, the arrangement should not be taken as of a final and irrevocable character. He did not pretend to go into the merits of the difference on a constitutional question between British Columbia and the Federal Government. We on this side did not know enough to decide upon the merits of the claim. On the other hand, he would be very sorry if it were thought that the action which His Majesty's Government had decided to take meant that they had decided to establish as a precedent that whenever there was a difference on a constitutional question between the Federal Government and one of the provinces, the Imperial Government would always be prepared to accept the Federal point of view as against the provincial. In deference to the representations of British Columbia the words "final and unalterable" applying to the revised scale had been omitted from the Bill. He would like to add a word or two as to the urgency of the matter. He had received a letter from Mr. Fielding, the Finance Minister of the Dominion, saying he hoped that the Imperial Parliament would facilitate the passage of the Bill at the earliest possible moment, because when the agreement was reached some months ago, the provinces assumed there would be no difficulty in securing the assent of the Imperial Parliament. They took it for granted that the additional revenue contemplated by the arrangement would be available by the 3rd July of the present year, and if anything now occurred to postpone the passing of the Bill some of them might find themselves in a condition of considerable embarrassment. He therefore hoped the Bill would be passed at the earliest possible moment.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several Provinces of the Dominion," put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Runciman.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA BILL.

"To make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several Provinces of the Dominion," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed [Bill 238.]

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [12th June], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

*MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich) expressed his pleasure at being permitted to consider such an important problem as that of the land question. To whatever school of social reformers hon. Members might be attached they were all agreed that land legislation must form an integral part of any genuine scheme of social reform. His chief criticism of the Bill was that it was not sufficiently comprehensive and wide-reaching. He was of opinion that a great mistake was made in submitting small measures for the consideration of the House when they had large problems to deal with. It should be recognised that small measures caused as much opposition as large and comprehensive schemes. It was often said that the Government would alarm people by bringing forward broad proposals, but his experience was in the opposite direction. What the people complained of was that so little was done and so much time and effort wasted. He felt that if any of the parties in the State desired to secure an abiding hold on the attachment of the people they would have to set their hands to larger, bolder, and more heroic schemes than had hitherto characterised their policies. Social reform was undoubtedly the great question agitating the people throughout the length and breadth of the land. He welcomed this measure because he believed it to be established on right principles and that it would take them a small step in the right direction. He felt, however, that a Valuation Bill and a Bill for the registration of titles should have preceded it. He was apprehensive that the absence of a Valuation Bill might have the effect of causing the prices of land to be inflated with the result that the rate would have to be fixed at such a high figure as would place the economic working of allotments and small holdings at a great disadvantage. A great deal might be done towards the solution of social problems if the Government were to go thoroughly into the question of the ownership of land. It was an undoubted fact that large tracts of common land hitherto in the possession and use of the common people had at various periods in the history of the country been appropriated by private individuals without any right whatever, and he was desirous of seeing their title to that land investigated in order to ascertain whether there was any possibility of that land being passed back again to the people to whom it rightly belonged. He thought the attention of the Government should be particularly drawn to all these aspects of the question, and he could assure the House that references to the subject on any platform in the country always secured a good deal of consideration and attention, and people were being induced to inquire why it was that common land had been taken from them. During the 120 years from 1760 to 1880 10,000,000 acres of land were enclosed in Great Britain, and Enclosure Acts had been passed helping to legalise the appropriations thus committed. If in the past it was possible for a privileged class monopolising political power to pass this land to themselves from the common people, surely in a democratic Parliament it should be perfectly easy to pass that land back again to the people. He submitted to the Government that a thorough investigation into the Enclosure Acts was necessary and would bring to light some most important information on the matter. If it could be justly shown that this land ought to be restored to the common people it would help them a great deal in their desire to place the land of the country under the control of the people. The plea of the landlord class who appropriated the land was that it was not properly cultivated, and that therefore it was in the best interests of the nation that they should take control of it. All those who were aware of the condition of the land of the country at the present time knew that the interests of the people had simply been played with, because the land had not been effectively cultivated; in many places it had simply been used to extend the pleasure ground of the rich and the well-to-do classes, and the chief uses of the land to-day seemed to be to produce rabbits and game. He hoped that this measure was only a portion of a larger policy, and that the Government had set out to thoroughly reform the land system. He did not think a more practical step in that direction could be taken than that of attempting to restore to the people the land to which they had a just and equitable title. At the present time one of the great disadvantages of our land system was the maintenance of too large holdings, so large that it was impossible for people with small capital effectually to work them. When the price of wheat was £5 per quarter farmers found it profitable to cultivate the land, and that was when the farmer was able to make a profit, but even then the landlord managed to reap the greatest advantage. Naturally the landlords preferred the larger holdings. Under those conditions the farmer naturally desired to secure as large holdings as possible; but now the conditions of agriculture had changed and the price of wheat had fallen from 100s. to about 30s. per quarter. Notwithstanding that fact large holdings still obtained, with the inevitable result that the farmers had been very largely denuded of their capital. There were in some of the western portions of the country large farms extending to between 500 and 600 acres upon which not more than five or six labourers were employed. He believed that this Bill would have a tendency in the direction of bringing the people back to those large holdings which ought to be divided up into more reasonable proportions. In that way the Bill would assist the better cultivation of the land and help to promote the stability of the nation. He observed that one of the chief objections urged against the Bill was that it was based on an occupying tenancy rather than on ownership. Speaking on behalf of his colleagues he thought that principle was the most presentable and most acceptable feature of the measure, because he did not believe the people of the country were desirous of boasting that they held a small portion of land. What they desired, however, was free access to and the secured use of land in order that they might enjoy the fruits of their own labour, which unfortunately was so largely denied to them at the present time. The last fifteen years experience of small holdings showed that the tenants displayed no great ability to purchase and no strong desire to do so. In support of that fact he only needed to remind the House that the whole result of the last fifteen years operation of the Act of 1892 had been that ten county councils were induced to take advantage of the powers of that Bill, and only about 812 acres had been disposed of under those powers. They had been treated to quite a number of beautiful epigrams, and they had been reminded about "the magic of ownership." He thought they were all able to appreciate the fact that the day of the principle of private ownership in industrial undertakings had largely become a thing of the past. The man who worked to-day under the control of a company or a trust could not claim that he had any private or personal portion of the property of that particular trust. They might as well argue that the printer could only exert himself to the utmost when he owned the machine to which he applied his labour. After all, what the people wanted was security for their livelihood, and that was secured quite as well under the principle established in this Bill as it could be under a system of private ownership. They had been told that the county council was liable to be capricious. He had yet to learn that the landlord class had been entirely free from that charge. At any rate, there had been painful experience that in some portions of the country landlords for political or theological reasons had arbitrarily exercised their power, and it did not become anybody to urge that a county council was liable to be more capricious than landlords had been in the past. Under the county council the occupying tenants would have security of tenure, for that body was elected on a wide electoral franchise; its members were always susceptible to public opinion, and if they were found wanting, public interest and civic spirit would always result in righting anything that might transpire. He was glad the Government had embodied in the Bill the principle of compulsion, and he trusted that the measure was but one step in a consistent policy of restoring the whole of the land of the country to the control of the people. There was one point on which he and his friends desired a little more information. He understood that it was the intention that land once purchased should never more be alienated. That was one of the most attractive and certainly one of the soundest features of the Bill. He would like the First Commissioner of Works to give an assurance that he was perfectly certain the provisions of the Bill would secure this as far as it was possible to do so. There was a measure of hope in the Bill for the agricultural population. They had been told that there was no great demand on the part of the agricultural population for more land. Although it might be that the demand had not been definitely articulate, nevertheless there was no denying the fact that land hunger was famishing the land, and the fact that there was not a more articulate demand was due to the crushing conditions which existed to-day; but if the agricultural labourer were given a sense of independence and liberty, perfect freedom to express his views and his hopes, in the course of a few years the nation would be astonished by the great progress which the agricultural population would make. It had been urged that it was an arbitrary provision to insist that the Commissioners appointed under the Bill should help in creating a demand for the land. He was one of those who regarded that as one of the best features of the Bill. The land problem was of vital import to the whole nation, and certainly they were all desirous of seeing the land better cultivated, not merely from the personal standpoint, but more particularly from the standpoint of the interest of the nation as a whole. Even if the people had not shown so great a desire for the land as some could have wished, they all knew nevertheless that in their own interest and in the interest of the nation as a whole they sadly needed it. The slum denizen did not always desire a better house, but if they could promote that desire, and if they could make him understand that it was better for him and those associated with him that he should have a better house, they did something not only for the benefit of the man and his family, but for the health of the nation as a whole. He could not subscribe to the feeling that the agricultural labourer would not work so well as an occupying tenant as he would do if he owned the land himself. The implication was a slander upon the agricultural population; because of all classes of the community, they might very well say that the agricultural labourer had almost to work his life out in order to keep a little life in. He himself was born in a small agricultural village, and he knew from his early experience the conditions of the agricultural labourer's life. Having realised that their conditions might be alleviated by political action, agricultural labourers were found at the last general election associating with the artisan section of the community in turning out of this House the territorial representatives and electing other men as a protest against their degrading toil and the subjection in which they had been kept. A new light illuminated their minds, and they were beginning to ask that some of the good things of life should be shared by them and those dear to them. He and his friends would, as he had said, have preferred a bolder scheme, but at the same time they heartily accepted this measure in the hope that it was part of the Government's larger policy. It was based on sound principles, and they were glad to know that progress was being made. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make it perfectly clear whether there was any power for the alienation of the land once it was purchased. He hoped that the Board of Agriculture would be careful in the selection of the Commissioners, because he thought that with a sympathetic attitude on the part of the Board, and a thorough knowledge of agricultural conditions on the part of the Commissioners, a great deal of good might be accomplished, and that much could be done, perhaps not altogether in bringing people back to the land—although he was one of those who believed that it was still possible to return to the land some of our surplus population—but in arresting the flow of the rural population into the cities and towns. It was necessary that other measures should be enacted besides that now before the House. The housing question was an integral part of the problem of rural depopulation, and he would like the right hon. Gentleman to give an assurance that the Government intended to deal with that question. He had had several instances brought to his knowledge where agricultural labourers had displayed tenacity in clinging to the land, but had been compelled to leave it because of the impossibility of securing decent and suitable housing in their districts. He thought the Government might take into consideration the whole of the land problem. They knew that in the agricultural districts the price of land had fallen to a low figure. It was quite popular in some quarters to allege that that was all due to our fiscal policy, and to say also that, even if our system of free trade was good, the value of agricultural land had been depreciated in consequence of it. Let them not lose sight of the fact that under that system the value of urban land had enormously appreciated. He and his friends were not to be lured away from what they understood to be a sound principle and a logical objective, simply by the obtrusion of the fiscal policy into these matters. He was one of those who believed that in course of time even agricultural land would be in greater demand and that the price once more would rise. They found that in the world's development there were even among continental countries conditions not dissimilar to those existing here. The exporting nations would necessarily follow the example of other nations which imported produce. They would have to go into the world's markets to buy wheat, and the chances were that the prices of agricultural produce in this country would once more be so profitable as to induce the people to undertake wheat cultivation. Of course, he knew that it was quite the right thing to say that we should place profound reliance upon our Colonies. He had never yet learned that Colonial merchants were different from any other merchants. They would sell their produce where the largest profit was to be secured. It was popular to say "Blood is thicker than water," but he had yet to learn that blood was thicker than profit. The nation would be doing the right thing in taking the land into its own possession, so that it might be used for the interest of the nation as a whole. He was a land nationaliser, and he was glad to know that he was not alone in the House in that respect. He believed that there were thirty-seven hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial Benches who were also Vice-Presidents of the Land Nationalisation Society. He regarded any land measure from the standpoint of how far it would take them in the direction of the realisation of their aims. He knew that their complete realisation would not be easily attained, and that the object which they desired would only be gained by degrees But he saw in the provisions of this Bill the probability of a partial realisation of their aims. Therefore, in a general way they gave their approval to it. While he and his friends held themselves perfectly free to submit Amendments which they thought were calculated to strengthen and extend the provisions of the Bill, nevertheless the right hon. Gentleman might rely upon receiving no warmer-hearted support for the measure than that which would be given by those who sat on the Labour Benches. It was sometimes said that their opposition was unreasonable. He submitted that their opposition was never of a factious character. They never hesitated to oppose where they thought opposition was necessary, but in regard to the main provisions of this Bill the Government would receive from them warm approval, and they would give no assent to the wasting of time in the discussions on the measure. People in the country did not understand how difficult it was to get legislation through Parliament. It was no good telling them of the existence of a small and factious Opposition and that time was often wasted in their deliberations on Bills. The reply they received to that statement was that the Government had a large majority in the House, and that they expected their representatives to overcome the Opposition so that some tangible measures might be passed for the purpose of bringing about social reforms. On behalf of those with whom he sat he said that they would do all that they could to facilitate the passage of this Bill through the House, because they believed that it was founded on sound principles and would help to make the agricultural population better women and men; that it would promote their welfare and make this country truly free and great.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said that he agreed with the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken in estimating this Bill as a very moderate measure, but it carried out the principles they had fought for in the Select Committee of 1890. The right hon. Member for Wimbledon had said that the Bill might be made a remedy for a grave national evil—the depopulation of the rural districts. But the depopulation of the rural districts was closely connected with another grave evil—the physical deterioration of the population. If we wanted to maintain our position as a great, powerful—and what was so often in the mouths of hon. Gentlemen opposite—an Imperial race, it was essential to have a large resident agricultural population connected with the land. The old Greek fable said that the giant wrestler Antæus received new strength from his mother earth as often as he touched the ground. That was true today of our rural population, and he hoped that this Bill would be the means of getting the people in close and permanent contact with the land so that they might renew their strength. The right hon. Member for Wimbledon had said that he could not understand why the Act of 1892 had been described as a failure. An Act which had only succeeded in obtaining 812 acres for small holdings in the course of fifteen years must necessarily be written down as a failure. It certainly had not succeeded to the extent which its promoters anticipated when it was introduced. It embodied a policy which the Liberal Party contested at the time, viz., that if there was a desire for small holdings it would be gratified voluntarily by the landowners. It had often been said that there was a great need for the more equal distribution of the wealth of the nation; but he believed that there was even a greater need for a more equal distribution of the land. It was only in this country that we kept hold to the old feudal laws which tied up the land and prevented its distribution. In every other great country in Europe and opposite course had been pursued. This Bill would alter all that. The Bill proceeded in the direction of the creation of tenancies instead of ownership of small holdings and it was on that account that the Bill had received the most pungent criticism from the Opposition Benches. But the principles of the Bill, which was to be allowed to go to a Second Reading, were no new principles. The plan of ownership under the Act of 1892 was encumbered by the provision that a man was to pay one-fourth of the value of his holding before entering into possession. Such a provision was enough to cripple him at the very outset of his ownership. Some means should be taken to modify that hardship even when a man wanted to purchase his holding. The returns presented to Parliament showed that the Act of 1892 had been a failure. The Return of 1895 showed that there had been made only thirty-seven owners of small holdings, and 115 tenants of land under the Act. In 1903 the owners still remained at thirty-seven while the tenants had increased to 166. These returns showing no increase in owners but an increase in tenants were an argument in favour of increasing tenancies. In the Local Government Act of 1894 certain clauses were included connected with the acquisition of land by parish councils either by compulsory purchase or leasing. The old Allotments Act of 1887 contained no such power, and consequently was also a failure. Returns showed that after seven years only 2,249 acres were obtained for allotments under the Act of 1887; but the Act of 1894 was a success because in two-and-a-half years 14,872 acres were obtained under it for allotments. The right hon. Member for Bordesley held that the allotments had been increased by voluntary effort, but he was speaking only of allotments obtained under the Acts of Parliament. The right hon. Member for Wimbledon said that the Act of 1894. spoiled his Act of 1892. Why was that? Because it contained two things—compulsion and leasing, which were also in the Bill now before the House. But there was a third Act from which they learned a lesson. The Sale of Glebe Lands Act of 1888 was introduced by Lord Salisbury's Government with the avowed intention of enabling agricultural labourers and others to get small holdings. Mr. Stanhope in commending the Bill to the House of Commons said—

> "The Government desired that these glebes should be sold in small plots, and he had no hesitation in saying that he believed the measure in many parts of the country would not only enable them to be sold as small plots, but would lead to their being acquired by labourers."

What was the result? By 1891 fifty-seven glebes had been sold, and of these no fewer than forty-five were sold in single lots. There was no chance for the small holdings being created under those conditions, and not a single labourer was put on a small holding by the sale of all those glebes. As he was informed, there had been from 300 to 400 glebes sold up to the present. Of those none so far as he knew had gone to labouring people. After that, surely the course of the present Government was clear. They must create opportunities for men to go on the soil as tenants, with security of tenure, which he believed they would have from the local authority. After all, tenancy was often better than ownership, because under stress of circumstances the small holdings often became greatly burdened. The magic of property was ofter overcome by the misery of mortgage. As regards compulsion, Lord Onslow's Committee desired that compulsory powers should be granted, but they limited them to the central authority. He would rather see such powers operated by the local authorities. If localities would take up and carry out schemes with such powers it would be of great benefit, and would prevent much friction between them and the central authority. There had been a good deal of dread expressed as to the Commissioners' authority. He believed that the Commissioners would have very useful work to do, but he believed also that their advisory powers would be better than the compulsory. Compulsion, he was sure, would not often be exercised, and in any case it would much more often be exercised by the local than by the central authority. The fact, however, of there being compulsory powers in the background would enable both the local and the central authorities to bring land more easily into cultivation by the people who would otherwise never get it, and, moreover, it would enable that land to be secured under better conditions than would otherwise be the case. It was necessary to secure land for the purpose at a fair market price, and the powers contained in the measure would do much to effect that most useful and beneficent object. He believed that the compulsory powers would be much more often exercised by the local authorities than by the central authority. At all events he hoped that would be the result of the working of the Act, but the very fact that they had in the background strong powers for the local, as well as for the central authority would bring land into the occupation of these landless serfs which would never otherwise be obtained. It would also enable the land to be acquired under better conditions. When there was no compulsion, allotment land had to be acquired sometimes at a cost of £90 an acre, in order that poor agricultural labourers might have a chance of growing a little food for themselves and their families. That was robbing the poor in a ruthless fashion, and they did not want such a condition of things repeated. Therefore they desired to have these compulsory powers in the background, and an opportunity afforded of obtaining the land at a fair price, without robbing either the rich or the poor. He believed that the compulsory powers would do much to effect that beneficial and useful reform, and they welcomed the Bill as carrying out what they had struggled to get placed on the Statute Book for nearly twenty years. By this measure they would enable the agricultural labourer to have more hope in his lot and more chance on the land. It would make the population of the country a more healthy race, and would prove a blessing to the whole nation by creating a stronger and a sturdier race.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said the right hon. Gentleman, as many of them were aware, had worked for many years to improve the conditions under which the rural population lived, but he thought that he was under a slight misapprehension as to the attitude which they on that side of the House took with regard to the question of ownership and occupation under this Bill. They did not at all say that every small holder who was created under the Bill was to be made a freeholder, but regarding the question as between the present owner and the local authority, they did say that if land was to be taken compulsorily for the purpose of the Bill or any other public purpose the owner ought to be paid a fair price for it. Therefore they said that if the county or the central authority put the compulsory power given by the Bill into force it ought to be used by way of purchase and not by way of compulsory leasing. He had listened with great interest to the whole of the debate and had paid especial attention to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, and he thought he might fairly say that they need not take much exception to what he said, so long as he was talking about the Bill under discussion; but when he dived into the history of the Small Holdings Act of 1892 and the circumstances under which it was passed, and talked about bait for a general election, he could not help wondering whether in any possible combination of circumstances, even in the near future, the present Bill might not be used for a similar purpose. When, too, he referred to another measure before Parliament to which he (Mr. Smith), as a member of the Scottish Grand Committee, had paid very special attention, the right hon. Gentleman said it would be wise if he only made one remark and did not give any further explanation; and when he heard that one remark he confessed he fully agreed with him that he was wise in abstaining from any further discussion on that subject. He wished to deal as shortly as he could more with the general principles which were embodied in the Bill than with its details though there were a few of the details which he felt bound to criticise. He wished, so far as he could, to look at the Bill from the point of view of one who had some practical experience of the agricultural matters with which this measure sought to deal. He was rather glad to hear the hon. Member for Norwich refer to the historical aspect of the question, and he wished to correct the impression, which he thought was entertained in some quarters, that the decrease of small holdings in the country, which they all deplored, had been due to autocratic or selfish action on the part of the present or past generations of landlords. He thought it was very easy to show that it had in the main been due to economic causes. As the hon. Member for Norwich had said, during any period up to about 130 years ago an enormous amount of land was occupied and cultivated under the open-field system, and it was a fact, which no one could deny, that under that system improved methods were perfectly impossible, and the policy of enclosure was adopted, under which, as the hon. Member had said, many millions of acres of land were enclosed. That, from the national point of view, was a wise policy; indeed it was an absolutely necessary policy. By those enclosures it had been estimated that something like 4,500,000 acres of land were added to the cultivated area of the country. He maintained that by that policy the landlords, farmers, and, indeed, the whole nation at the time, gained, with the exception of one particular class, and that was the small open-field farmer, who when enclosure came became, in many cases, a hired labourer, at a very inadequate rate of wages. It would have been absolutely impossible, if the old open-field system had been allowed to continue, for this nation, in time of war, to get its food supply at all, and it was on that ground that that policy was thought to be absolutely necessary. As manufactures grew up, and as the population of the manufacturing cities increased by leaps and bounds, it became absolutely necessary, especially under the fiscal system which then prevailed, that the food of the people should be grown at home. The day of the self-sufficing farmer was over, and the farmer whose chief care hitherto had been to provide food and clothing for his family found that the populations of the great manufacturing cities were clamouring for food. At that time the small holdings on the open fields were broken up, and large corn-growing farms became the order of the day. During the nineteenth century agriculture had many ups and downs, but, on the whole, corn-growing remained a profitable industry up to the time when the great fall in prices took place, which began in 1877, and then corn-growing began to go down, and the agricultural interest passed through a very severe crisis. Since that time the crisis had gradually been passing away—things, so to speak, had been finding their level. The high rents of the old days had gone, probably for ever, and in some parts of the country, at any rate, land was readily let, and comparatively low rents were cheerfully paid. But there was one great evil which still remained, and that was the greatly decreased population in the rural districts. Low prices caused agricultural depression, and at the same time improved machinery came into vogue, and, together with the necessity that farmers were under to reduce the cost of production to the lowest possible level, helped to accentuate the tendency, which existed in all civilised countries, of the people to drift from the country districts towards the great centres of population. The consequence was that they had this great national evil to contend against. The evil was recognised by his right hon. friend who now represented Wimbledon, when he introduced his Small Holdings Bill of 1892. It had been said that that Act had been to a great extent a failure, and they must admit that it had not been made much use of. He thought its action was retarded to a very great extent and the local authorities were prevented from making use of it by the extremely low prices which prevailed for the few years after it passed into law, and also to a very great extent by the ignorance of the people whom it was sought to benefit—ignorance for which they were in no way to blame, because they had lost, in two or three generations, during the prosperity of the corn-growing industry, a knowledge of the lesser agricultural industries. Since the attention of the public had been directed to these special problems of depopulation in the rural districts and the pressure of population in the great cities and the want of employment there, their attention had also been directed to these minor agricultural industries, and a vast amount of fruit and dairy produce was now produced, and although those commodities were not so profitable as corn-growing they were still worth producing under favourable conditions, and rendered it possible for a man to support himself and his family comfortably. It had been sometimes said that it was impossible to get the people back upon the land because no land was available. He believed that to be a great mistake. It was almost impossible to look at the advertisement sheet of a provincial paper without finding agricultural land advertised for sale. From a return, which he had obtained from an auctioneer of his acquaintance, of the land put into his hands for sale in the year 1906, he found that the land put up for auction by that one firm amounted to 23,000 acres, and was situated in seven different counties. Of that land 13,500 acres were sold at prices varying from £7 to, in exceptional cases, £100 an acre, and 9,000 acres remained unsold, although in many cases the reserve put upon it was not large. A very large proportion of that land was put up in lots of less than fifty acres, and the conclusion at which he had arrived from that return, and from other facts which had come to his knowledge, was that there was a large amount of land on the market. What was wanted was some organisation to bring the buyer and seller together. Of course, a man who wanted to purchase or hire a small piece of land could not always expect to find it over the next hedge. If people wanted land, or anything else, they must go where it was for sale. It was not expected that they could always acquire it at the place where they lived. He quite admitted that further facilities than those given by the Act of 1892 were required, and though he objected to some of its details he was glad a Bill that encouraged small holdings had been introduced, and he would not offer any objection to its Second Reading. He also welcomed very cordially the encouragement given by the Bill to co-operative societies and organisations of that kind which would enable buyers and sellers to come together. Cheaper loans was a matter of great importance and one to which his attention had been directed when serving on the Housing Committee. That was also a portion of the Bill with which he cordially agreed, and he hoped the clause dealing with it would make these matters much easier than before. He was glad to see that the Government had elected to proceed by giving further powers to the local authorities. He had no objection to the county councils having compulsory powers, so long as they were powers for compulsory purchase, and not for compulsory leasing, and he welcomed the powers by which the central body would be able to undertake special schemes which it might not be wise for a local authority to undertake. It would also have the further advantage that if those schemes were of an experimental nature, and were not a success, the loss would fall upon the Exchequer, and not upon the district concerned. What he objected to most strongly was the power given to the central authority to override the wishes of the local authority. The local authority was a popularly elected body, and therefore it must be assumed that they would give proper consideration to a scheme, if an appeal was made to them for small holdings. If they deliberately considered the petition, and came to the conclusion that it was not desirable to interfere in the matter, it was, in his opinion, most outrageous and unconstitutional that their wishes should be overridden by the central authority. He believed the Government would find it impossible to put that clause into operation if the Bill were passed, as he hoped it would be. It should also be remembered that the greater part of the agricultural land of the country was already let to those who cultivated it, and in some counties it was almost impossible to get any large amount of land without displacing the present occupiers. That would be, perhaps, a little difficult to do in the face of the Agricultural Holdings Act of last year. One clause of that Act secured compensation to any agricultural occupier who was removed from his farm unreasonably, and, if the present occupiers were to be ejected to bring about small holdings, he would like to know how, and on what scale, compensation was to be provided for the present tenant. One technical objection to the Bill was that, as it stood, it contained no provision for making advances to the present owners of land. He knew in the present House there was some prejudice against such a thing as that, but as one who was earnestly and sincerely anxious to see the number of small holdings increased, he would like to say there were many cases in which it would be the easiest and most satisfactory way to carry out the object in view. There were many owners who would be very glad to cut up their farms and divide them into small holdings, but it was impossible for them to contemplate any such action owing to the expense involved. It would be the easiest and cheapest way to allow the landowners to carry out this scheme on their own account, and to have the necessary money at a reasonable rate of interest, The whole of the success of the Bill depended on good administration, and he rejoiced at the statement of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill with reference to that. There must be no hurry and no pressure; but he really believed that if the organisation of the rural population was improved. and their education in these technical matters encouraged, as it had been during the past few years, a good work would be done in that direction.

*MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme) said this Bill ran directly counter to the principle which they on that side were returned to maintain—he meant the principle of free trade. Most hon. Members on that side of the House had protested against the payment of shipping bounties to encourage trade with Canada, on the ground that the whole community would have to pay but only the privileged few would benefit. On that identical ground he protested against bolstering up one favoured industry, the small holdings industry, at the expense of the whole body of rate and taxpayers. Both were attempts, by squandering public money, to alter the natural economic development of trade and industry, and both were, therefore, contrary to free trade. It would be said, of course, that they were only spending £100,000 as the price of this protected industry. He should like to point out that that £100,000 was by no means the sum total of our public benevolence. We were also to lend cheap money on poor security. The State was to do that which no business firm would undertake at the price, and no landlord. All the risk of failures, and some failures there must be—and their number would not be lessened by the artificial enhancing of the price of land —would fall upon the rates. The community might count itself lucky if it got off with four or five times that £100,000. He thought they were all apt, on a subject such as this, to legislate rather from the heart than from the head. They were all oppressed by seeing the obvious depopulation of the country-side and the hopeless position of the agricultural labourer. They felt that the community ought not to refuse any assistance which could help to put the agricultural labourer into an independent position; that if there were to be subsidies, no subsidy could be more justifiable. But his charge against that subsidy was that the agricultural labourer would not get it. This £100,000 or £500,000 which they piously believed was going to benefit the agricultural labourer, was going, instead, into the pockets of the landlords. ["No."] He would try and make himself clear. There were subsidies and subsidies. Some were comparatively harmless, others were bad, but this subsidy on the purchase of land had fewer merits than any other. Let them compare, for instance, a subsidy on the purchase of boots. Suppose the State were to give 6d. a-piece to everybody who bought a pair of boots. Of course the demand for boots would increase and the bootmakers would make larger profits for a time. Those larger profits would attract more capital into the boot industry, and the supply of boots would rise to meet the demand. Under free competition those abnormal profits that the bootmakers were making would be cut down and become normal once more, and the 6d. a-piece would revert to the purchaser and user of the boots. But boots and land were very different, and a subsidy on the purchase of land would have a very different result to the subsidy on the purchase of boots. For this reason: There was no limit to the possible supply of boots, but the supply of land was limited at the creation. Every increase in the demand for land would increase not the supply but the price of that limited commodity, and this subsidy, instead of going to the land user, would remain with the landowner, not only for a few years, as in the case of boots, but permanently; it would not revert, as in the case of boots, to the user of the land. But he thought that apart from that somewhat abstruse piece of reasoning, one could

Mr. Abel Smith.

see that any increase in the demand for land must raise its price. If the Government entered the market for the first time as the purchaser of land, the price of land everywhere was bound to go up. He remembered in the days when one used to buy Consols, one was always advised by one's brokers to buy Consols, because there was a limited supply, and because the State was in the market and the price was bound to rise; and so it did. Exactly the same thing happened when the deplorable Irish Land Bill was passed. As soon as the Government entered the market for the purchase of Irish land its price everywhere rose by six or eight years purchase. The passing of that Act, and the entering of the Government into the market for the buying of land, raised the price of land in Ireland by 25 per cent., and that not only where the Government were buying, but throughout the whole of Ireland. The entry of the Government as a purchaser pushed up the price of land. Therefore, the result of this subsidy to small holders would not be to benefit the agricultural labourer, whom they all earnestly wished to help, but it would go instead into the pockets of the landlords. Probably most Members recognised that this increase in the value of land must result from the passing of the measure and did deplore it. But they would say, and with some show of plausibility: "Yes, but if the expenditure of this money means that more people will live on the land and fewer drift to the towns, then, whatever be the cash results in raising land values, it is worth it; for the health of the community, the physical and moral stamina and well-being of the nation are worth purchasing even if we have to buy them from the landlords." That would be a very plausible argument if the way proposed in this Bill were the only possible way of getting people back on the land and making it more productive. But it was not the only way, nor was it the best way; he doubted whether it was a way at all of attaining that end. It ignored absolutely and entirely the best way of bringing the land to the people. They sought to create small holdings and intensive cultivation by increasing the demand for land; by taking the tenant by the hand and leading him up to the landlord and helping him to ask for land. Why did they not, instead, set the supply of land free an dflowing? Make it unprofitable to withhold land from use whether for purposes of pleasure or privacy, for sport or speculation. They could do that by taxing land values. By basing the rates on the capital unimproved value of the land they would increase the available supply of land and the demand would follow as a natural consequence. That way would cost them nothing. That way would not enhance the land values. A land Bill, to be really successful, must allow for the free play of spontaneous demand, for a clear and open market between buyer and the seller, between landlord and tenant. What was, above all wanted was to do away with the uneconomic friction that existed between the owner and user—to break down the dykes and barriers that our theories of irresponsible ownership had built up and which were strengthened by our unsound rating system, and let the waters of commerce flow at their natural level. Without some such scheme as a basis to work upon any small holdings Bill such as that under discussion was mere philanthropic tinkering. The philanthropy that put "dear people" where they did not want to be—that planted out the tame "working classes" like cabbages—no, not like cabbages, that would be too businesslike and orderly: they were going to be planted here and there artistically, clothed in smock frocks so that the non-working classes might have pleasure in the contemplation of their handiwork. What they wanted was to take a very small step forward towards a far more important change. Could they not alter the relations which at present existed between the owner of the land, the man who had the right to dictate exactly how the land should be used, and the people at large, who had to use the land or die? The balance was unfairly weighted in this struggle for existence. It should be made easier to claim the land for use—more difficult to refuse. The right remedy, not only for getting small holdings but for the housing problem also, was to begin by changing the basis of our rating system; to base rates everywhere and only, in town and country alike, on the unimproved value of land, whether the land was used or not, whether it was well treated or badly treated by its landlord, whether much capital was invested on it or not. To quote once more the words of the Select Committee on the Taxation of Land Values (Scotland) Bill—

> "All local taxation should be transferred from the present valuations to the valuations of land value; thus substituting local taxation of land value for all the present local taxation of landed property."

And again—

> "We consider the benefits of the proposed system lie, not in tapping a new source of revenue, but in the economic benefits which would result from a fundamental reform of the system of taxation."

That was the Report of a Liberal Committee. In that way they would make it to the landowners' interest to bring their undeveloped land (which at present they were encouraged to leave idle) into the best possible use. That would increase the available and ready supply of land. That was the way, and the only sound way, to induce intensive cultivation and maintain the people on the land. If that were done difficulties of detail would vanish. One person now asked whether a small holding would pay seven miles from a railway station. If they taxed land values they would find out. Another wanted to know whether three acres were sufficient, or should it be ten or fifty; let them tax land values and they would find out; others asked whether tenancy or ownership was the right solution; again let them tax land values and they would find out; for the right things would spring up wherever they would pay. If they procured free play for economic conditions, they would get a sound economic result. It was, he thought, so great a student of law as Prof. Albert Dicey who had said somewhere that—

> "An essential point of any good law is that it should be as universal in its application as possible, and that it should have the automatic regularity of a law of nature."

He maintained that this Bill violated both those principles. It resembled in its accidental and arbitrary nature some sumptuary law of the crudest age of English law-making. It left it to various individuals to decide whether any particular person was to be given a right to any particular piece of land, and at what particular rent; whether any particular individual was to be called upon to part with any particular piece of land and at what particular price. Could a less universal or automatic law be imagined! If the absolute ownership of land was of the nature of a social injustice, the remedy should lie in a fundamental reform, applicable in all cases, and applying itself automatically. Nothing less could be satisfactory. Nothing less was even equitable. If it was not in the nature of a social injustice, what act could be more tyrannical than to force selected individuals to part with what they rightly owned, even though every stone were paid for in solid gold? Those two methods of attaining the same end—this Bill and freeing the land—were whole poles apart. One was protection, the other was free trade; one started by increasing demand, the other by increasing supply; one laboriously brought the tenant to the landlord, the other sent the landlord to the tenant; one was State interference with economic laws, the other did away with all that was now artificially restraining economic laws; one was what they might expect from a good Conservative Government, the other was what they hoped to get from a Liberal Government. The whole tragedy of the situation was that this Government, with both plans to choose from, had deliberately—he hoped not finally—chosen the worse. He begged to move, "That no legislation requiring the expenditure of public moneys in order to encourage one particular industry is desirable, and that small holdings and intensive cultivation can best be secured by basing the rates on unimproved land value, thus forcing land into the most profitable use."

The Amendment was not seconded.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I am sure the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down need not have apologised to the House for the fact that the opinions which he holds, and which he has just expressed in his speech so ably, find no great support on this side of the House or the other.

For my own part I am always glad to hear anyone with the courage of eccentric opinions expressing those opinions clearly, and standing by them with courage. He deserves that amount of praise, and I am glad to give it. I will go further and say that with one of the two propositions around which his speech centred I entirely agree. I concur with him in saying that this is a Bill wholly inconsistent with free trade as free trade used to be understood by the older economists and theorists, that it is a deliberate attempt to divert the course which the particular industry is taking and if left to itself will take, and is therefore undoubtedly inconsistent with one of the many meanings to which the term free trade has been applied. But the hon. Member went on to tell us that the way to get out of these difficulties was to tax ground values, to make perfectly impossible the arbitrary separation between the value of the unimproved land and the value of the improved land, and that we should at once learn who it was wanted land, how the land should be distributed, how it should be cultivated, and how it would at once produce that natural flow of industry which he desires. There, I confess, I fail to follow him. It would not be appropriate or fitting on this occasion to do what undoubtedly we shall have to do later on—discuss the theory of the hon. Gentleman and others with regard to the taxation of ground values. But whether the taxation of ground values is just or unjust, whether Parliament adopts it or rejects it, I think the hon. Gentleman on reflection will see that in no case could the remedy for the evils of which he complains have a tendency to divert or prevent the stream of migration from the country to the towns. It could not carry out any of the objects which the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has at heart, and in which I believe he has the general sympathy of hon. Members on both sides of the House. I desire to speak with all respect of the efforts which the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill is making to improve our land system. A colleague of his brought in another Bill dealing with another portion of these Islands, with regard to which it was impossible even for the politest critic to speak with the smallest touch of respect. It is wholly inconsistent with current experience, and absolutely inconsistent with the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, and still more inconsistent with the views of the present Irish Secretary and, I believe, of everybody else in the House who has considered the proper way of treating land in Ireland. I do not think that any Government before has been in the singular position of having so much variety of opinion within its ranks, and so little power of co-ordination that it could at the same moment advocate and attempt to carry out three wholly inconsistent policies with regard to three separate portions of a not very largely or very economically separated community. The Chief Secretary for Ireland in a speech he made the other day, in introducing another measure, expressed the pious hope that nothing would interfere with purchase by the Irish tenant of his holding, while his colleagues disapproves of purchase by tenants of their holdings. He says that tenancy is the right system and purchase the wrong system. The object of purchasing holdings in Ireland is to get rid of dual ownership. The Secretary for Scotland desired to establish dual ownership. Therefore you have in the Cabinet one Minister expressing his desire to see perfect possession of the freehold by the occupiers and dual ownership brought to an end, while at the same time his colleague in Scotland is establishing an elaborate dual ownership where it does not now exist; and you have a third colleague saying he objects to dual ownership and peasant proprietorship and has a scheme of his own. I do not think such a spectacle as that has ever before been presented in one Government. I do not say there has not been inconsistency among members of the same Party, whether they sit on this side of the House or on the other; no doubt there has been; but I never yet heard although a Party may change its opinions —I know a Party has changed its opinions in twenty-four hours—for instance in the case of Home Rule—I am far from criticising any change of opinion in a Party, but I have never yet heard of a Party which expressed three different opinions at the same time through its organised Government. Of the three plans, I frankly admit the one I prefer is that which commends itself to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, but of the plan now before us I desire to speak with a respect far greater than I could command when dealing with the Scottish Bill. But, after all, respect is only relative, and there are some points in the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman which, much as I admire and sympathise with their objects, he will perhaps allow me to criticise, not in a hostile way but, I hope, in a clear and unmistakable fashion. Just before I come to the details of the Bill the House will perhaps allow me to say one word upon certain arguments by which this Bill has been advocated and to try to deal with the fundamental ideas, sometimes expressed and sometimes unexpressed, which lie at the root of the movement to which this Bill gives expression. We have heard several hon. Members say that they desire to see this Bill passed, or something like it, because it will prevent migration from the country to the towns. When agriculture is in a state of equilibrium, migration from the country to the towns depends really upon two things—namely, the birth-rate and the magnitude of the country population. I cannot see how that argument can be answered. It is not so much an argument as a self-evident proposition. The right hon. Gentleman brought forward another argument of which we have heard a great deal, and of which I do not wish to minimise the force, and which I wish to emphasise to the House. He says you must keep the population in the country, not because that would diminish the migration, but because it is absolutely necessary to have a great country population if we mean to maintain the physique of our race. The right hon. Gentleman is in a position of distinction, and he has devoted much attention to the problems of public health, but is this House going to acquiesce in the doctrine which the right hon. Gentleman has stated? Is it really true that we depend for the maintenance of our race upon that population, as to which an hon. Gentleman below the gangway, who spoke this afternoon, told us the whole condition of their occupation was degrading? It is a lamentable fact, if it be a fact, that the whole future physique of our race depends upon the agricultural labourer, who, we are told, is working under degrading conditions. If we are going to acquiesce in giving up the problem of having an urban population, which problem we have to solve, if we cannot deal with the health of the population of our great towns so as to prevent them from being, as we are told, sources of hereditary diseases, then, indeed, the resources of British civilisation are bankrupt, and I think it would be the first duty of this House to check the growth of big towns and artificially to stimulate the population of the country by laws deliberately intended to be protective, and deliberately intended to keep the population there at whatever cost to the community at large. But I cannot admit this bankruptcy. I cannot admit this bankruptcy of our civic life. I do not think it wise for hon. or right hon. Gentlemen to make these appeals to us about the physique of the race unless they are prepared to prove that urban life is inconsistent with the maintenance of that physique; or if they come to that conclusion, that urban life is inconsistent with that, then let them take their courage in their hands and say that our forefathers were wrong when they took the view that Britain, henceforth, in the main must be a manufacturing country, and that we must, at whatever cost, preserve our most valuable heritage, even if it should involve a great and almost overwhelming public cost. I do not accept the conclusion of the right hon. Gentleman; but if I accepted it, I do not know what further conclusion, except that which I have stated, could be accepted either by me or any other Member of the House. I have said that if agriculture is at an equilibrium, you have a constant flow, dependent on the size of the population, from the country to the towns; but I admit that it is not at an equilibrium now; that it has been and is still going through a transition period, and that there has been a great diminution of the country population, which for reasons alien to those I have indicated, I deeply regret. To my mind the causes of the diminution of the rural population are absolutely plain; there is no mystery about them. They depend wholly on the fact that the prices of the great staples of industry hav diminished, owing to the opening up of virgin soil, to the great improvements in transport, and to the great development of machinery. These three causes together are amply sufficient, and, in my opinion, are alone responsible for the diminution of the population. I do not believe myself that if you are going to attempt on your small holdings to deal with such things as the growing of corn and the growing of wheat you can hope to have prosperous small holders in most parts of the country unless you condemn them to a life of anxious toil, which is an inseparable accompaniment of small holdings in many parts of the world, and which I believe will be the inseparable accompaniment of small holdings in this country unless the small holders are exceptionally favourably situated or devote themselves to the growth of other things than those great staple products which can only be economically developed by the aid of great capital and the most advanced machinery. If we accept those plain statements of fact, how are we to alter the present state of things with advantage to anybody? In the first place let me point out to the House that there is a great deal of confusion of thought, in my judgment, in the minds of some hon. Members in regard to the size of holdings. There are many people who believe that the fact that land exists in this country largely in the shape of big estates is due to what they vaguely call feudalism. Although I do not agree with the statement, I do not argue against it at the present time, because it has nothing whatever to do with the size of holdings. Granting that estates have been a prejudicial factor by tradition, law, and custom, that does not affect the question of the size of holdings. What has determined the size of holdings? The size of holdings has been determined largely, I believe entirely, by economic causes—by the view taken by those most competent to decide at the particular time what size the holdings should be; and you find the greatest variety in the size of holdings in different parts of the country, corresponding to the economic, or what was the economic condition of the various districts at the time the holdings were parcelled out. Therefore, do not carry away the idea that when you are dealing with the holdings of England you are dealing with an unnatural growth; you are not; you are dealing with a natural growth, an economic growth. That again is a matter which cannot be forgotten when we are attempting to alter the size of holdings. It is an attempt which I do not think inconsistent with free trade in the older acception of the word, and it is an attempt, nevertheless, which this House may well make. But I do not believe it can be made successfully unless in the first place you vary the crops, unless you deal with a different industry from that which now exists, unless your small holders grow something different from what is grown by the bigger farmers. That I take to be the first condition of a very large extension of holdings. The second condition I believe to be that you must organise your small holdings. You cannot leave them as isolated units. You must work them up into some coherent and well-contrived whole, and in that way do much to mitigate the inevitable evils which small holdings generally carry with them. The great farmer hardly requires this organisation of his industry, because he can organise within the limits of his own farm, and he may get on; but the small holder who refuses to come into some organisation is, in my opinion, predestined to be squeezed out in the economic competition which is being forced upon us now, and which will not be less forced upon us in the future. But if you do those two things, if you alter the crops and if you organise, then I think Parliament may well come in to get us over the difficulty of the transition period which is due to the fact that the industry is now organised on another plan. You cannot alter that system without cost. You have no right to throw the cost upon the landlord. If you want to bring about this new state of things, and it is economic when carried out, then it is fair to go to the necessary expense for establishing it. But you would be foolish indeed if, having gone to the expense, the state of things which you have established is not one which can live by itself and fit in with the economic conditions of the world as we find them. There is one more condition we ought to bear in mind, namely, the condition of the small holder.

Unless he be very happily circumstanced, his position must be a difficult one. It is your business to give him every motive, and although I do not lay it down as a dogmatic proposition that every small holder should be a freeholder, I think that by making him a freeholder you give him a set of motives for that arduous toil which in many cases is the sole condition of his prosperity and success. The House has listened very patiently while I have ventured to lay down some of the broad principles, and perhaps I may now be allowed to consider their application to the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman has undertaken a task which is inherently difficult because it consists of artificially modifying the natural course of an industry. It is a problem which is exceedingly difficult. When you are dealing with a problem which is exceedingly difficult, ought you not to avoid every impediment you can, and make inevitable obstacles as little formidable as possible? The amount of opposition you raise should be as slight, as unembittered, and as easily surmounted as may be. The right hon. Gentleman has, I think quite unnecessarily, made his Bill repugnant to a very large number of people who will either have to work it or perhaps take advantage of it. I do not mean to dwell on certain aspects of it which I think very unfair to the landlord, such, for example, as the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman proposes, under the name of allotments, to have five acres of arable land taken, it may be, from a farm in a small parish, by the majority of the inhabitants, by which the farm may be destroyed—allotments which may ultimately fail, in which case the locality will then come down upon a solitary ratepayer to bear all the expense, that ratepayer being the man who was injured by the original arrangement. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will cure that while the Bill is going through the House. He has told us, I am sure, with all sincerity, that he does not mean this Bill to be one for the spoliation of anybody; I accept that statement, though I do not think it is wholly carried out in the Bill. I trust to the Committee stage for remedy, and I am not going to argue the question from the point of view of the interests of the landlord. There are other interests. I think it is a very gross violation of principle compulsorily to hire from any owner the land you are going to use for another purpose. Of course, in one sense it may not, and ought not, to be described as spoliation if the rent given be sufficient and be adequately secured. But I think it is thoroughly bad in principle and perfectly unnecessary. The hon. Gentleman who spoke from below the gangway on this side, and some other Gentlemen opposite, hold the view that there is a great unearned increment in land, a great source of value not put into the land by the owner of the land; and that is one of their reasons why they desire that land should not be sold to small holders, but retained by the community so that the community itself may profit by the unearned increment, which they think will accrue. We are all familiar with the argument. Then apply the argument. Why is the community not to get the unearned increment of the land you are compulsorily hiring? Buy it compulsorily if you want it, get the unearned increment; do not do what you propose to do, to compel a man, not merely, mark you, to let the original unimproved soil, but to let also the improvements which he and his predecessors have put into the soil. This compulsory hiring, remember, is not compulsory hiring of unimproved land, it is compulsory hiring of capital. I do not believe that is a sound principle, nor one that would be tolerated in any other industry; and I cannot see that it is consistent with the views of those who think that land has got an inherent spontaneous power of augmenting its value, which the community ought to possess. I would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that, while he is running counter to the prejudices of Gentlemen on his own side of the House who hold these views about the unearned increment, he is equally running counter to those on this side who think a man's land should be either taken or left—who think that if you want to buy it you should buy it outright, and if you want to lease it, you should only lease it if he is prepared to let it. Why introduce this obstacle in your Bill; why raise these unnecessary prejudices? What do you get by it? We are all prepared

—I am—to say that if you can show the necessity for the acquisition of land, that necessity should be met by compulsion if it can be met by no other means. But then buy it, treat the land as if you wanted it for a railway, a post-office, or some other great public object; do not carry out an entirely novel principle, wholly inconsistent, so far as I can see, both with the views entertained on this side and with what are called the advanced views of Gentlemen on the other. The third difficulty which the right hon. Gentleman has put in the way of his Bill I have already referred to. He has laid it down that his Bill is not to increase the number of peasant proprietors. Why has he put that limitation on his measure? Why has he deprived it elaborately, deliberately, and gratuitously of the flexibility which surely any sensible statesman would have aimed at in framing such a measure? I am ready for my own part to grant that there may be cases in which it is more desirable and in accordance with the wishes of the community that small holdings should be in the shape of tenancies and not ownership. But does, or can, anybody deny that there is a demand for ownership, that ownership has immense attractions for the very class you want to keep on the land, and that ownership carries with it motives which tenancy never carries with it? In addition, by giving ownership you relieve your local authority or your Board of Agriculture of the most difficult and delicate duties which the task of landlordism inevitably carries with it. Look at tenancies first from the point of view of the tenants. A great many have said that people prefer to be tenants; it may be true in some cases. But suppose a tenancy created when times are good, and suppose times become bad, what is the tenant to do if he be the tenant of a public body? If he be the tenant of a landlord and the landlord think him an eligible tenant, almost always there is some accommodation and arrangement come to between the two; it may be a permanent reduction of rent, it may be temporary assistance, the rent may be allowed to stand over for a shorter or a longer time. Is a public authority going to do all that? Is a public authority going to consider whether Mr. A. or Mr. B. is a man to whom some relaxation of his public engagement is to be given or not? I think you either inflict a very great relative hardship on the tenant if you insist that the terms shall be carried out absolutely to the letter, or you throw a most invidious task on the county or parish council, as the case may be, when you say that those terms may be and ought to be in certain cases, relaxed. You would have to say that the position of peasant proprietor is just as bad—no, it is not just as bad, for the peasant proprietor can, at all events, borrow temporarily to get over the difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has an inveterate objection to borrowing upon land, but there is no industry in the world which gets on without borrowing. The power to raise money to deal either with temporary requirements or temporary difficulties is one which must be, I think, part of the freedom which you allow to every healthy and self-sufficing industry. In the case of a small tenant the difficulty is got over by the assistance of the landlord; I do not say he necessarily borrows from his landlord, but the payment of his rent is relaxed if he is a good tenant, which is equivalent to borrowing. But you are going to allow these tenants to have no security on which they can borrow; your first object is to prevent them borrowing. Whatever a man may put into his holding, however much he may improve it, you are not going to allow him to borrow on the security of what he has done. Is not that the policy of the Government? It is very important, and I should be grateful for a reply. I do not press for it; but the right hon. Gentleman would help me if he would inform me whether he contemplates these tenants being allowed to borrow on their improvements or not.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): They can borrow on the security of their stock.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then you do not keep out the moneylender. I think the hon. Gentleman must have omitted to listen to that part of the speech of the Minister in charge of the

Bill in which at great length he explained that his object was to keep out the lender altogether, whether in the case of tenants or owners. If that be so, I do not see how the small tenant is to tide over. From his point of view, I conceive that ownership is far more advantageous than tenancy. But, if you turn round to the other side, if you consider the position of the county council with regard to their tenants, are not you throwing on that unfortunate body a duty almost impossible for them effectively to perform? You have already asked them to manage your Army, they already manage your education, they already manage, of course, your roads and police, and now you are going to compel them to undertake all the difficult and delicate duties connected with the ownership of land. I cannot believe that is right. I cannot believe that, at all events, you might not leave a discretion, allow elasticity, and in those parts of the country—I believe far the larger parts—where ownership and not tenancy is desired, allow county councils to agree to ownership and not tenancy in the case of those who wish it. [An Hon. Member: They can.] There is no power of compulsion to buy the land in the Bill. Your whole argument, a rather ungenerous argument, is that the Act of 1892 is a failure. My right hon. friend's work in the direction which we are all desiring now to pursue cannot be over-rated; although the Act has not been largely taken advantage of, the value of his pioneer work cannot be over-rated, and I think it has been treated with scanty generosity on the other side. But, at all events, your argument is that the Act has totally failed. If that be so, put into the Bill, which you say is going to be a success, that elasticity which would, at all events, promote the possibility of its use for the acquisition of freeholds as well as for the creation of tenancies. There is a still greater gratuitous difficulty which hon. Gentlemen put in the way of carrying out their policy. Let the House observe the extraordinary departure which the Bill proposes to make in local government. We are all acquainted with the expedient of forcing a local authority to carry out a duty which has been entrusted to them by Parliament. But the Government go much further than that. They take the initiative out of the hands of the county council altogether. They send down an official who has no statutory instructions, who is the nominee, necessarily, of a party Minister. He is not required to consult with the county council, with those from whom the land is to be taken, or with those to whom the land is to be let. In fact, this irresponsible gentleman may even tell the county council that they are to prepare a scheme to carry out his ideas and recommendations. He is first to create the demand for small holdings, then to say how that demand is to be supplied, and then he is to give orders to the county council to carry his scheme out. That is a wholly novel procedure. What is worse, I think it is a disastrous procedure. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill tried to hunt up precedents for his proposal, but he totally failed to find them. He gave up to *Hansard* what was meant for mankind. But why did he not consider the matter on its merits, and give attention to controversies we have had on analogous subjects in this House? I remember when hon. Gentlemen opposite spent night after night on our Education Bill declaring that if we did not leave the county council absolutely to its own devices in the spending of money that was not its own, or even mainly its own, but the money of the taxpayers, we were mistrusting the people; and now right hon. Gentlemen opposite come forward and, without giving a sixpence from the Exchequer, propose to coerce the county council to carry out costly schemes to which the county council may object. And there is here a distinction of fundamental importance to be kept in mind. You may coerce, or try to coerce, with more or less success, a county council to carry out a plain direction. For instance, you may say that every child is to be vaccinated. That is a plain and simple direction, and you can know exactly whether or not it is carried out. The same is true of schemes of sewerage and water supply. There is no discretion in the matter. Selection and doubt are out of place. But when you are deciding whether small holdings will succeed in this or that locality, how much land should be bought, and what price should be paid for it, how big the holdings should be, and what arrangement should be made in regard to letting, is there not an immense latitude for differences of opinion, and for the exercise of discretion, judgment, and doubt? And, should the county council in these matters of discretion, judgment, and doubt differ from the nominee of the central Government, are we really to be told that the central Government will ever succeed in thrusting their views for the settlement of the difficulty down the throats of the county council? The thing is preposterous. It cannot be done. One instance of a controversy between the central Government and a local authority has been mentioned in the debate. The local authority won. It was a vestry. The central Government were beaten by a vestry. Are they going to win against a county council elected on the most democratic franchise? Remember what we had to do in the case of the Welsh county councils and the Education Act. We are all agreed that where there is a plain question of policy the local authority is bound to carry out the views of Parliament. In the case of the Education Act the question was of the simplest character. It was that the Welsh councils should treat the voluntary schools on the same scale of liberality as the provided schools in the distribution of the money provided for education, not by the ratepayers, but by the National Exchequer. Yet we felt we could not trust to the remedy of a *mandamus* in dealing with the difficulty, and we had to propose a special remedy, which was violently opposed by hon. Gentlemen opposite, who then took the view that it was the duty of the county councils to refuse to carry out the provisions of the Education Act. In this case no remedy of that kind is possible. You do not propose to give the county councils any of the money necessary to provide small holdings; and it is only through money voted by Parliament that you can have any hold on the county councils. To put them into prison is no good. Can you conceive a county council being put into prison because in the doubtful experiment of providing small holdings they think the Government inspector is wrong and they are right? Remember that this is an economic experiment. The right hon. Gentleman tells us he does not want any one to lose by it. But if the experiment is a failure some one must lose. And who ought to lose? The Government who forces the experiment on the unwilling county council or the unwilling county council? If the experiment fails the county council will say, "You forced us compulsorily to buy land and to parcel it out; we always foresaw that in this district small holdings would be a failure; and now that it is a failure you tell us, who unwillingly undertook the experiment, who warned you that it would be a failure, that we have got to pay the cost." You cannot impose the cost in such a case. It is evident that if the Government want their plan to succeed they must be far more liberal as regards money, and they must make friends and not enemies of the great public bodies which are to administer it. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill told us that his measure is intended to effect a great public object. If that be so let the public pay. At all events, let the public bear part of the burden. If the public outside the county are determined to force on the county an experiment which the local authority do not wish to try, at least let the outside public engage to pay the whole or the greater part of its cost. If you are really sincere in your desire to see this difficult and costly experiment tried to the best advantage, you must not throw the cost upon the unwilling ratepayer; you must bring in the aid of the National Exchequer, otherwise you will be but adding one more to the previous failures of which you complain, and you will be discrediting the cause you desire to promote, the cause of increasing the number of small holders of land in this country. If the Government really desire to have this experiment tried under circumstances best calculated to bring it success, I beg of them to remember three cardinal points—first, allow the creation of small ownerships as well as small tenancies; secondly, do not violate all the principles of justice by insisting upon the compulsory hiring of the land; and, thirdly —which is perhaps the most important—make the county councils your friends, and help them in the financing of these operations which you insist they shall undertake. I admit that the changes which I have ventured to advocate touch important parts of the Bill, but they do not touch its vital principles. The Bill may yet be made a really useful measure, passed with the consent of both sides of the House and offering every possible hope of successfully carrying out an object which has the approval of all parties. But if the Government are obstinately determined to stick, not merely to the general principles underlying their Bill, but to every detail of it, then I think its course through the House cannot but be troubled, and its effect on the country will not only be less than they anticipate, but it may put back for an indefinite period the cause which they and we have equally at heart.

*MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said there were only two points in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition to which he proposed to address himself. The right hon. Gentleman made great play in the earlier part of his speech with what he called the extraordinary attitude of the Government and the diversity of voice with which they spoke. What a spectacle, said the right hon. Gentleman. They had the Chief Secretary for Ireland rising one week and recommending one proposal, the Secretary for Scotland rising another week with quite different proposals, and finally they had the First Commissioner rising with a third set of proposals. But in his opinion it was the great merit of the Government that it spoke for different parts of the kingdom according to their wishes. He was a convinced Home Ruler, and he certainly thought that Irishmen should have the control of their own land system. The right hon. Gentleman was a Scotsman, and if the right hon. Gentleman told him that this or that particular did not commend itself to his mind as applicable to his country he would listen to him with respect. There was no reason, so far as he could see, why different land laws should not be made for different parts of the kingdom. The right hon. Gentleman had given the House an interesting dissertation upon what he called the transition period of agriculture, and had said that everybody knew that it was the fall in the price of agricultural products that had caused the depopulation in the rural districts which the House now so much deplored. The right hon. Member for Wimbledon yesterday quoted a sentence to the same affect from the Report of the Royal Commission appointed some years ago. He quite agreed that the fall in the price of agricultural products was most serious, but he also believed that the evil effects had arisen because those who cultivated the land had not been quick enough to adapt themselves to the changed circumstances. The right hon. Gentleman was a great breeder of stock, and he knew perfectly well that though there might be a fall in prices, the altered conditions could be met in farming by increased output. There was land where it was possible to grow wheat at 30s. a quarter and make a better profit by improved farming than from the same land at 35s. if more wheat per acre was produced. Again, if a man had a herd of cattle and took care to breed so that the production of milk rose year by year, while at the same time care was taken that the expenditure did not rise in ratio to the output, he could lower the price of his milk or butter or whatever the product was that he sold. Therefore, price was only one element. What had not been recognised was that what was wanted to meet the altered conditions was improved methods of cultivation, greater freedom on the part of the tenant, and more capital. The other points of the right hon. Gentleman's speech were no doubt important and would be answered by others. But he ventured to say that those two points—the necessity for variety in dealing with different parts of the United Kingdom, and of price being the only element in rural depopulation—would not bear examination. The right hon. Gentleman had gone on to say that the First Commissioner had set himself the difficult task of artificially modifying and forcing an industry. Well, all the Acts relating to land from what was called by the Whigs the glorious revolution of 1688 to the present time, were all Acts modifying an industry. It was because the Government had recognised that in this matter the clock must be put back to a certain extent and the conditions made more nearly what they were before those Acts were passed that they brought in this Bill. Speaking broadly and generally he welcomed the Bill. It was an honest attempt to effect a great public reform. All would admit that any system that was put forward by a Bill of this kind must be based on sound economic principles. He was not one of those who wished to stimulate artificially by legislation—it could not be done for that matter—the production of the soil. He was not for a moment in favour of what might be called philanthropic fads in dealing with land. Land was a thing which must be dealt with on strictly business principles, and he was not in favour of finding men money except on the strictest business principles. By this Bill they not only added to the product per acre, which was a great blessing to the community itself, but in it they had a Bill which touched the character of those who would live on the holdings. If he had to choose between the town and the country dwellers as to the ripeness of their judgment on the affairs of life, he would choose the men of the country. They were of better physique, mentally and bodily, and were not subject to those fits of panic, or even of enthusiasm, which they saw in the miserable townspeople. They lived a less articulate life, so far as speech went, but they were none the worse for that. Let a committee sit around a table, and everybody knew that the opinion most worth having was the opinion of the men least ready to speak. From that point of view he preferred the countrymen. The countryman was in community with all that was called nature, whatever might be meant by that term, and in all respects he had a practical acquaintance with the affairs of life, which went a very long way. He rather regretted that the hon. Member for Norwich had spoken as he had of the degradation of it. He himself did not think there was any real degradation. They desired to see the lot of the labourer in many parts of the country improved, but they must be very careful how they adopted some of the ways that had been proposed to do it. He welcomed the clause of the Bill, basing these holdings on tenancies rather than ownership. Although he represented an electorate of 18,000, several thousand of whom were freeholders and cultivated their own land, he thought, in this matter, they should try to have variety, and he welcomed variety. He listened, he had almost said with amusement, to the lurid picture drawn by the right hon. Gentleman of what would happen if the Bill became law, and he traced again what he had noticed in the right hon. Gentleman when dealing with the Education Bill of 1902, namely, the absence of any practical experience of the working of a local authority. Everyone knew perfectly well that what he anticipated would never take place, and that although it was true that the central authority intermeddled sometimes with the local authorities very little notice was taken of that. He was also very glad to see the provision for compulsion, and that his right hon. friend had inserted a clause limiting the effect of the Lands Clauses Acts. He well remembered an interesting discussion that took place two years previously in the Grand Committee on light railways. That Grand Committee debated for two hours the limitation of the Lands Clauses Acts, and they came to an even vote, and he, as regards compensation, as Chairman had to give a casting vote. He was perfectly impartial on the matter, and he gave it against the application of the 10 per cent. for compulsory purchase from owners on the ground that their property had been improved by the making of the light railway. He was very glad, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman had embodied that principle in his Bill. Another provision to which the right hon. Member for Wimbledon had taken exception was that which swept away the limitations on buildings contained in the old Act. He welcomed that provision, for what was required in different parts of the country was more buildings per acre. Speaking for himself, he regarded the Bill as the irreducible minimum. The Leader of the Opposition had used some rather ambiguous phrases to which they must attach some importance, since although his following in this House was small the right hon. Gentleman held another place in the hollow of his hand. From that point of view he would like to be quite sure where they were in regard to what the right hon. Gentleman had said, for he had stated that the principle of the Bill might be accepted, but there were three or four points which "must be amended." He thought the right hon. Gentleman used the word "must."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I said if the Government showed no desire to make concessions on those points, which did not seem to me to be vital to the principle of the Bill, the progress of the measure in this House would be thorny.

*Mr. ELLIS said he would not carry the point further; but he hoped the Government would not concede anything which, in their opinion, would touch any vital principle of the Bill. It was to be the irreducible minimum; they thought it would effect a great social reform, and they welcomed the Bill on that ground.

Mr. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) said the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the irreducible minimum, and the First Commissionor of Works had stated that he did not intend to accept any Amendments. The Leader of the Opposition had referred to the unnecessary powers contained in the Bill for the coercion of county councils, but they could not expect much tenderness towards county councils from hon. Gentlemen opposite. He did not think that a case for the Bill had been made out, and the arguments used in the House were different from those used outside. The reason given for the Bill was rural depopulation. In 1881 there were 983,000 agricultural labourers in the country, and in 1901 there were 689,000—a reduction of 30 per cent. But in conjunction with that statement he would point out that, according to the Report of the Commission on agricultural depression, in 1875 the average rental of land was 33s. 10½d., and in 1894 it was 20s. 0½d. — a reduction of 40 per cent. Therefore it would be seen that along with rural depopulation they had the decreased rental received by the landlords. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies had said that the justification for the Bill was that land was the great monopoly of a small and privileged class. He did not know what the privilege of the landowners was, except it was that they paid income-tax on gross income, while everybody else paid on what they put into their pockets. He had sought to find out something about this monopoly, and had applied to the Board of Agriculture to ascertain what land had been sold in this country publicly or privately. He received the courteous answer that there were no such statistics in the office, but they referred him to the *House and Property and Public Estates Gazette* to get his information. He there learned that in 1906 there were 92,000 acres of land publicly sold. There was no record of what was privately sold, and he thought it was most disgraceful to the Government of the country that sales of land were not registered. But putting the sales of land effected privately at a similar figure, they had a total of about 200,000 acres of land sold in 1906, and very probably about a million acres of land had been sold publicly and privately in five years. He did not believe that to be an excessive figure, and he could not conceive, on those figures, where the land monopoly existed. There were large estates sold, and there were ample opportunities for acquiring land for small holdings. He had an Amendment on the Paper that the Bill be read that day three months, but he did not intend to move it in the circumstances, though he would prefer to see it read on September 12th. There was also the Scottish Land Bill going on, and the Government were trying to rush two Land Bills through the House at once. They were trying to ride two horses, though they had not been particularly secure in the saddle in regard to one of their Bills. He was not one of those who believed small holdings were going to be a success spread all over the country. In certain circumstances they would be successful. He believed that if the landlords were properly approached by the county councils there would be no difficulty in obtaining land. The county councils were going to lease land from the landowners; why should they not purchase the land, and, if necessary, lease it again to the small holders? What he objected to was compulsory hiring from the landowner. If the county council wanted land, and to become a landowner, let it buy the land, but not become a leaseholder. And he would ask the Solicitor-General whether the provisions of the Bill really guarded the county council against excessive demands for compensation for improvements from small holders if they left their holdings. The Bill did great injustice to landlords and, although some of its provisions might do good, it ought not to be passed in such a hurry. The demand for small holdings was rather fictitious. It was a popular cry at the present moment, he admitted; but he was perfectly convinced that under the existing economic condition of agriculture men could not, in most parts of the country, get a living on such land. The more people were able to live on the land, the better, of course, it would be for the land, but Bills of this sort brought forward in a hurry, Bills of compulsion that were going to force county councils, who ought to know the needs of their own areas, to do things which they believed to be economically unsound, would only throw back agriculture, and not advance it.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said he would like to express his approval of the intention and objects of this measure, and also of the machinery which it set up to attain those objects. He was not without hope that in years to come it would be looked upon as one of the great Acts of the Liberal Parliament. He hoped they might be assured of the passage of the Bill through both Houses of Parliament without too much delay or bitterness. He noticed that those who had spoken on the subject, and more especially the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, had spoken in a critical mood, although they had not displayed any really active hostility to the main principles of the Bill. Those who had been a long time in Parliament understood, and realised more than those who had not had so much experience, that it was the duty of an Opposition to oppose and underrate everything proposed by the Government, and the present Opposition were doing their best in that direction. There was a very serious evil confronting them in the rural districts in the abnormal annual withdrawal of the population which had become what he might call a grave national catastrophe. There was a real demand for land in certain districts, which had not, up to the present, been satisfactorily met, and which, if satisfied, would, to a large extent, mitigate the evil to which he had referred. Rural depopulation had been dealt with by previous speakers. It was manifest that the causes of rural depopulation came from many sources. Those which had been dealt with by the Leader of the Opposition might be characterised as social and economic causes, and could not be mitigated or prevented by any form of legislation. There were, however, others which he believed could be mitigated by legislation, and they might be characterised under three heads. Two of them were dealt with in the measure before the House. One was not actually dealt with by the Bill, but it was of so kindred a character that he would venture to allude to it. One of the main causes of rural depopulation was the deplorable insanitary condition of cottage property in the country districts. That state of things was largely due to the negligence of the local authorities in administering the housing and sanitary Acts. He hoped that at the earliest date next session the Government would be able to see their way to introduce a Bill to strengthen and stimulate local authorities to carry out their primary duties in that respect, and thereby mitigate the evil of the insanitary condition of cottage property. The second point he wished to raise, and it had a close bearing on the Bill, was that it was difficult for landlords, whether local authorities or individuals, to build cottage property with any hope of a reasonable return for the capital outlay. The result was that in many villages there was to-day a serious lack of cottage accommodation. The Bill would materially affect that state of things, because one of the provisions was that small holdings and allotments up to five acres should be established with full equipment upon them, which would include the dwellings where the occupants would live. Then there was the difficulty of finding a sufficient quantity of land in certain districts where there was a great demand for small holdings and allotments. It had been said that the demand for land was of a somewhat spurious character, and that there really was no demand for this legislation. A Return showing the demand for land had been taken hold of by the critics of the Bill, and they had pointed out that the statistics, instead of proving the demand, showed just the reverse. He was not there to defend the Return which had been submitted to the House by the President of the Board of Agriculture, but, as one who presided over a Select Committee last year, he was prepared to say that in the course of a long and exhaustive examination of the housing problem in rural districts, which brought in the whole of the land question, witnesses drawn from all parts of the country, representing local authorities, public bodies and many others who had devoted their lives to work in rural districts, without a solitary exception declared that there was in the different districts of England a very serious demand for land which was not satisfied. Those who had read the evidence given before Lord Onslow's Committee would be ready to confirm what he said. During the last forty years, looking back to the innumerable inquiries made by Royal Commissions, Select Committees, and Departmental Committees, they would find an overwhelming mass of evidence showing that there had been in many districts a demand for land which had not been satisfied, and that demand had been accentuated as years went by. Therefore he thought they might dismiss from their minds the argument that there was no demand for land. The Bill proposed to grapple with the difficulty in a practical and sensible way. It gave an opportunity to local authorities to buy, either by agreement or by compulsion if necessary, land up to fifty acres. It appeared to him to meet the demand of the three main classes who required land, and who were they? First, there was the labourer in regular employment who required an allotment; secondly, the independent labourer in intermittent employment who wanted more land; and thirdly, the independent small man who desired to devote the whole of his time to the career of a small farmer. It had been said by the right hon. Member for Wimbledon that allotments had been provided in many districts, that the people were getting tired of them, and that they were being handed back in a derelict state.

One would gather from the tone of the right hon. Gentleman's remarks that the desire on the part of labourers for allotments was dying out and was no longer in existence in many parts of the country. He would like to have the opportunity of analysing the reasons why the allotments referred to by the right hon. Gentleman had fallen into a state of desuetude. Of course, allotments miles away from a man's house would naturally become unattractive. In many instances they were in unsuitable positions, or the land was not of a character to make them profitable. The Bill, however, gave parish councils power to arrange allotments in suitable places, within reasonable distance of the holders' houses. Then there was the want of larger allotments for the labourer in intermittent work, a man who was indispensable to the large farmer at certain portions of the year. It had always been a difficult problem how to retain these men in the villages. In many districts the conditions of certain industries made work intermittent. The quarry industry, for example, was liable to violent fluctuations. In the last year there had been in that industry a violent downward fluctuation, with the result that many men had had to leave the district altogether. He had known many instances in which men had left districts where they would have remained if they had been able to get some land to work upon. An allotment of something like five acres would enable such men to tide over bad times, and so keep them in the villages. Another important aspect of the problem was the question of buildings. It was difficult under present arrangements to induce anybody to build a cottage, because the return was so small. A cottage without land was as useless in most cases as land without a cottage. When they put alongside a cottage a certain piece of land, they would be able to offer sufficient attraction to capitalists, whether the local authority or individuals, to develop districts in that direction. He believed that a cottage could be built for £165 or £170, and let at a rent of about £5 a year. That was a very small inducement to build cottages. In saying that, he spoke from his own experience and on the authority of the evidence given before the Select Committee. If they attached to the cottage a certain amount of land they would be able to ask a sufficient rent to pay an adequate interest on the capital laid out. The third point was that they wanted to see small farmers multiplied throughout the country. Some of his hon. friends opposite were apt to look with scepticism on the development of that class. He was of a more sanguine disposition. He believed that that class, with proper support and encouragement, could not only be multiplied, but developed into a very useful and prosperous element in the community. He was strongly in favour of the hiring of land as against purchase, because he looked on small holdings as one of the rungs of the agricultural social ladder. He wanted to see men move from small holdings into larger ones. He had on his own estate a tenant who admirably farmed a holding of 250 or 300 acres. He had been on the estate for forty-five years; he started as a labourer, afterwards became an allotment holder, and now he was one of the best farmers on the estate. They wanted to see such men multiplied all over the country. The Bill would enable men of that class, as never before, to start life under those circumstances. Some hon. Members opposite seemed to think that it would cost £1,000 to develop a small holding. Those who had had practical experience in the matter could not accept that estimate. He thought they could, generally speaking, be developed and equipped at the rate of about £7 or £8 an acre, so that a holding of 50 acres would cost about £400, and there was no reason why the rent obtainable for it should not afford an adequate return. He laid great stress on the establishment of the co-operative system wherever there was a group of small holdings, so as to secure for the holders a reliable market; and he would be glad to see the establishment of some machinery which would enable societies to take over land in order that their members might become small holders. Those societies or associations should be established wherever any appreciable group of small holdings could be created. The success which had attended the co-partnership system in connection with housing showed what could be done by co-operation, and there was no reason why the same principle should not be applied in regard to small holdings.

SIR F. CHANNING said it was working in Northamptonshire.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER said that in connection with compulsory purchase the less expensive process of a single arbitrator would conduce to economy. There was not the slightest doubt that one of the reasons why in the past compulsory purchase had not been acted upon by local authorities had been the expense. Rather than put their compulsory powers of purchase in force, local authorities had negotiated with landowners and eventually paid far above the market value, because they found it cheaper in the end to do so. The present system of purchase and conveyance was most expensive, and he believed that as the scheme developed it would be found desirable to provide a more rapid and less expensive method. They had heard a great deal of land being disturbed by the operation of the Bill. He had no great apprehensions on that score. Hon. Gentlemen opposite always suggested that the members of local authorities were a lot of arbitrary and stupid people. His experience was that county councils were composed of sensible, practical men. The gentlemen appointed to be Commissioners would be very carefully selected, and they would perform their duties, as public officials always did, with judgment. The Commissioners would serve as a useful stimulus to apathetic and reluctant county councils, and the enabling powers of the councils would serve in their turn as a useful stimulus to landlords who hitherto had not turned their attention to small holdings. For some reason best known to themselves, the land agents had been very strenuous opponents of small holdings. If the county councils had this stimulant, the result would be that many more small holdings would be created, either by the county council or by the Commissioners. He believed that the Bill was a practical and progressive attempt to grapple with the land question. But he urged most earnestly on his right hon. friend to use his influence with his colleagues to introduce next year a Bill dealing with the housing of the people in rural districts. The one measure would be the complement of the other, with the State acting as a stimulant to the local authorities to adopt sanitary inspection, which would gradually go on and convert the country districts into a more prosperous state, multiply small holdings, and mitigate and diminish the evils of the slums of our great towns.

*MR. HILLS (Durham) said that if the cost of land transfer were made cheaper it would go a very long way towards the solution of the land question. That would not be easy of accomplishment, but it was quite worth trying, because it was a subject of great importance all over the country. The present position in regard to small holdings was most deplorable; and many hon. Members had pointed out the grave evils which existed and demanded a remedy. No doubt something was wrong with the present position and something should be done to put it right. There were four well-known facts apparent. In the first place the value of land during the last twenty years was said to have fallen by £500,000,000. In the second place, over the whole country economic rent had disappeared. All that was paid as rent was interest on the money sunk by the landlord and his predecessors on roads, buildings, drains, and other improvements, and very small interest it was. In the third place, the land produced less. And in the fourth place, the number of people employed on the land had very largely fallen. He would be a very bold man who ventured to dispute that if these facts were true the landed and agricultural interest was in a very bad way indeed. His complaint against the Bill was that it was only an attempt to deal with a very small part of the question, and that not in the right way. It did not attempt to deal with the industry of agriculture as a whole or to benefit that industry and make it more profitable, but only to better the condition of the people engaged in that industry. He agreed that the latter was a very good thing even in the narrow limits of the Bill. But the measure stereotyped the existing system instead of going for some defensible change in the system. It only went in for some small modification of the existing lines. It created a new class of landlords and a new class of tenants; but it left the existing condition of the farmers and labourers untouched. If land purchase was the ideal to be attained then it was farther off than ever. If the Bill succeeded all the land in the country would pass into the hands of a body who would not sell and could not die. The land would pass into a sort of perpetual mortmain. It was hard to see why the Government had put aside all question of purchase. If the existing system was all right and if the tenancy system was the best way of working land it was hard to see why it should be attacked at all. The public authority could not deal with any question which the private landlord could not settle. In fact all the advantages were in favour of the private landlord. It was quite clear that the public authority could not let the land any more cheaply. All compulsory powers of purchase or hiring led to higher prices. The tenant could not even get fixity of tenure; for if he had a saleable right in his lease the principle of dual ownership was introduced. It was said that holding under the county council would be a great panacea against capricious eviction, that any popularly elected body would treat tenants with decency and leniency, and would not turn tenants out of their holdings. But all public bodies were capricious in their action, and a strong demand might be made in the county councils under certain circumstances for raising the rents of the tenants. Again, he was not sure whether the Government saw that it was essential that any land reform must carry with it a large amount of State assistance in the way of providing capital to the small holders. Could the Government give that assistance on the same easy terms as the private landlord? He spoke from personal experience on this matter because he had seen the accounts of a very large number of large estates, and he knew that the landlord only got a return of between 1 and 2 per cent. on capital sunk in new buildings, roads, drains, etc.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked what was the income of the landlords from the tenants after spending the money on their estates?

*MR. HILLS said that the net income which a landlord obtained was something like 2 per cent on the selling value of the estate. The gross income varied very much.

MR. FLAVIN said that Irish landlords claimed from 7 to 9 per cent.

*MR. HILLS said that in England there were people who were ready to invest their money in land at a very low rate of interest. He was not sure that the Government quite realised the large change which a system of small holdings would mean. It meant that the part played by the landlord in the economy of the country would be taken by the State, and all the assistance in past times given to the tenant by the landlord the State would be obliged to render. It seemed to him that all this was a very strong argument for purchase against the solution which the Government had adopted, namely, that of a system of leasehold occupancy. The Government had however stated that they would refuse to extend the Bill so as to include purchase. It was very hard to see the reason for that decision. The whole system of small holdings was largely an experimental system, and when the House passed an experimental Bill it seemed desirable it should draw its net as widely as possible and give itself as many chances as possible. Surely all the chances were on the side of ownership. The First Commissioner of Works in his able defence had given reasons why he considered his own system was the best. The first was that purchase was not wanted; he (Mr. Hills) thought that was a matter of opinion. He considered that there were certain people in the House and in the country by whom purchase was wanted, and if they gave the man the land or a chance of getting it, they called into operation all sorts of influences which they did not invoke when they only allowed him to hold it under a lease from the county council. In a great many cases the landlord was perfectly ready to sell, and it would be a great advantage to small holders if they were put in a position to purchase their holdings. No doubt the landlord wanted his price, but very often it was a very low price, and if the State were to step in and buy the land and allow the tenant to re-buy it from them by easy instalments it would be a far greater step in the direction of land reform than the present Bill would be. Of course there must be certain instalments and the State must see that those instalments were paid and future obligations secured. They would also have to see that the land was not divorced from the use for which it was intended but was always kept as a small holding. He thought there was some confusion in some hon. Gentlemen's minds about the taxation of land values. He did not think there was very much natural value in agricultural land in England, and it seemed to him the profits which now came from land took the form of interest on capital. Therefore if hon. Gentlemen had the idea that by taxing land values they would have a large source of wealth he thought they were mistaken. It was very hard to say where the advantages of tenancy would come in when contrasted with the system of ownership, and if hon. Members thought the result of their system would be to force up the price of land he did not think the amount which the county councils would buy would affect it. Under the Bill of the right hon. Member for Bordesley each tenant would acquire his holding for the same amount as the rent which he would pay, and at the end of sixty or eighty years the land which he occupied would become his freehold, so that to talk about the tenant not having the capital to work the land was fallacious. The real argument for small holdings was that they wanted the business of agriculture made more profitable to the people engaged. They wanted to build up a ladder from the bottom to the top, and to give some chance to the labourer of rising to be a farmer and landowner, and surely a system under which the land was sold and transferred as cheaply as stocks and shares were sold, by some simple expedient of registering the title, so that a man could sell his land or buy land and add to his holding by means of easy instalments—surely that was a far better ladder and gave the labourer a much better chance of rising than a system under which all the land available for allotments or small holdings was held by the county councils, and all that the labourer got was the right to apply for a small portion which he held at a yearly rent, and from which he could be turned out very easily.

*SIR F. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said in the last speech and in one or two other speeches they had been carried off rather to the metaphysical aspects of the question, and away from the practical issues which the House was debating. The issues raised by the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme especially went far beyond the plain and practical matters they had to discuss, issues which he thought it was alike needless and unwise to raise in this debate. In the few remarks which he had to make, he wished to offer some, he hoped, useful comments on the practical issues raised by the Bill. In the first place, however, he should like warmly to congratulate his right hon. friend on the success of his first venture in the larger field of social politics, and on his admirable handling of a subject bound up with many memories of the great services of one of the greatest Parliamentarians whom some of them had ever known. Land reformers had always looked upon the handling of the land question by the late Sir William Harcourt, his clear insight and close, just analysis of the supreme issues which it involved, with the deepest gratitude. He had listened with interest to those who had spoken from the Front Opposition Bench, and wished to join in the welcome which had been given to one of their oldest friends, the right hon. Member for Wimbledon, on his return once more to that House. With a large portion of his remarks he was in full agreement, though, as the right hon. Gentleman was aware, on some other topics there was a vast chasm of difference of opinion between them. He was delighted, however, to hear in his speech, and also in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, a spirit of conciliation, and a readiness to handle this subject in a temper by which they could arrive at a common understanding. If he might touch for a moment upon the interesting and also important speech of the Leader of the Opposition, he would like to offer one or two criticisms on one statement which the right hon. Gentleman made. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the Government as advocating three systems of land reform, but it seemed to him that the present Government was not concerned with the system which was being carried out in Ireland. He had always supposed that the land purchase system in Ireland, through State credit, was a special achievement of the Unionist Government, and of his right hon. friend the Member for Dover. Then the right hon. Gentleman thought the Government were riding two horses in opposite directions in the Bill of his right hon. friend and the Scottish Bill. To say that Ministers had spoken in different directions was, to his mind, a complete misrepresentation. As to the differences which were said to exist between the present Bill and the Scottish Bill, he did not hesitate to say that the central principle of each was identical. There was a slight inversion in the duties of the central body, and he confessed that in that respect he preferred the independent Commission of the Scottish Bill; but taking the report of Lord Onslow's Committee and the two Bills, there was in all three the same principle of a central body and compulsory powers. The differences were in degree or method. He affirmed that without the slightest hesitation. What fell from the right hon. Gentleman with regard to the thorough co-operative organisation of the small holding development which they wished to see carried out throughout the United Kingdom was absolutely essential to success, and he associated himself with the right hon. Gentleman's demand that the question should be treated on an absolutely economic basis. Small holdings should be started not as a matter of philanthropy or sentiment, but with knowledge and on definite business and economic lines. The reason which caused him most heartily to support the Bill was that it was based distinctly upon an economic basis and economic methods. He contended that under the Bill there would be no risk to the ratepayers or anybody concerned, because no scheme would be put through unless economic success was really in reach. Hon. Members opposite had dwelt on the desirability of purchasing the land and making the small holders freeholders in every case, but surely hon. and right hon. Gentlemen would see how inconsistent that was with the economic basis they insisted on. If they insisted that small holders should be freeholders, what they really insisted upon was that a larger portion of the capital which should go to the working of the holding should be absorbed by the process of purchase. They would therefore diminish the working assets which the small holder had for the land and diminish the probability of his making the holding a success. He thought one portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech showed a lack of personal acquaintance with the subject, which gave him some surprise. The right hon. Gentleman had said the Bill gave no help to the local authorities from the State to carry out its proposals. He contended that the whole cheapening of the costs of arbitration and the cheapening of the procedure which gave to the Board of Agriculture and its Commissioners power to pay a portion of the actual expenses of the county council or other local authority in acquiring the land, and, furthermore, the great concession of giving eighty years as the limit for the repayment of loans advanced to the county councils, was an enormous subvention and pecuniary aid and relief to the county councils in carrying out the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman had also complained that small holders were not allowed to charge their holdings under the Bill, and seemed to think it would be absolutely and entirely impossible for them to obtain money except by the process of mortgaging their holdings. He invited the right hon. Gentleman to consult the various sources of information in regard to the credit banks which were at present working all over the continent. Banks of this type were being promoted by the Agricultural Organisation Society, which had already established a number of them in England, while Sir Horace Plunkett's society had established still more in Ireland. Everybody knew there was no mortgaging in these credit banks. A co-operative credit society was formed among the people themselves. It was governed and controlled by a committee. That committee offered loans to the members of the society to carry out various agricultural operations, and all the loans were made on direct personal security and not upon mortgage. The Bill, as it seemed to him, was admirably adapted to meet many of the obvious difficulties which those interested in the question had found it so exceedingly hard to overcome in the past. He had already alluded to the financial difficulty so admirably surmounted by the Bill. Some of the criticisms addressed yesterday to the Bill were directed to points upon which he certainly hoped his right hon. friend would see there was some reason for the criticism. He did not think those criticisms were based on natural defects in the drafting or the intentions of the Bill, but he thought its passage would be facilitated if provisions were introduced which would make those intentions clearer and more definite. It was said that in the case of hiring land compulsorily by the county councils or the Commissioners there was no guarantee to the landlord as to good cultivation, and that the land would be returned to the landlord at the expiry of the hiring in a well-cultivated and satisfactory condition. He would suggest that the Government would be well advised if they would accept from one of the several Bills which he had laid before the House the specific guarantee which he had there inserted in the case of compulsory hiring of land. He thought that such a provision was perfectly fair and that this Bill contemplated it, and he thought the Government would be well advised if they put a provision of that kind into their Bill. It would be as well if a similar provision were put in for the adequate compensation of the tenant farmers who were dispossessed in order to create small holdings on their farms. The schedule of the Bill provided for compensation for the severance from the landowner, and also an allowance to the tenant who had been dispossessed for the proportion of the rent in respect to the land taken away from him, and he did not think that the Bill would be in any sense weakened if such a provision as he suggested were inserted. The possible unpopularity of the Bill with the tenant farmers of the country would be enormously diminished if there was some definite guarantee that a farmer who was dispossessed should have full and complete compensation not only for improvements, but also for the loss he sustained by having a portion of his land taken from him. He himself had always insisted upon that. He remembered years ago he started a co-operative society to take a portion of a farm from one of the tenants of Lord Wantage in his own village in Northants, and he insisted upon the fullest compensation being paid for crops and everything else, and he found that that course was fully appreciated by the labourers who were placed upon the land. He did not in the least disguise his own very decided preference for the procedure of the Scottish Bill especially in the form adapted to English conditions in which he had himself drafted the Bill which stood in the name of the hon. Member for Stowmarket. The Scottish Bill included in its provisions the principle of loans to landlords, and, though many of his friends did not agree with him, he heartily supported that principle. He knew, from many communications constantly reaching him, that many landlords were most eager to carry out a policy of small holdings if it were made financially possible. A great deal of evidence had been taken by the Committee on Small Holdings, of which he was a member, on this point. He commended to the attention of hon. Members the evidence of Lord Harrowby, who was carrying out an admirable system of small holdings on his estates in Staffordshire and Gloucester, since it would entirely relieve their doubts on the question, and they would also see the reason which enabled him, a Liberal, most warmly to support the principle of loans to landlords for the promotion of small holdings. Lord Harrowby said that many of the small holders were perfectly ready to pay for land, previously let to farmers for 30s. an acre, as much as 50s. or even 70s. an acre; they paid those rents regularly and there were no arrears, and he said he could expand the system still further if financially enabled to carry out that purpose. He would like to state frankly to the House the grounds on which the Committee arrived at their conclusions unanimously. He himself had supported the Chairman in his proposals that advances should be made to landowners, but he had insisted that they should have, as a condition of State advances, guarantees that the land thus aided should be ear-marked and maintained in the shape of small holdings. They signed a Report unanimously in that sense, that the money should be advanced at a low rate to the landowner to carry out that policy, but that he on his own side should not be legally enabled to pocket any result of that advance of public money, but that he should remain under the obligation to keep the land in small holdings, and, further, that he should so keep it under conditions which would imply fair play to the tenant, at such a rent, and on such conditions, as would give a fair chance of making a reasonable profit. He much preferred the idea of an independent Commission. He had, while on the Agriculture Commission twelve years ago, and last year on the Small Holdings Committee, heard all the evidence given in Scotland. The striking success of the Crofters Commission gave him the strongest possible opinion in favour of a Commission which would not be in the position of the Commissioners under the present Bill of having, first of all, to bring about the action of the local authority. He preferred a scheme for the promotion of small holdings by a strong body of men responsible to Parliament, who would be able to carry out their policy under that responsibility with a free hand and with public money to promote small holdings in this country. But falling short of that, he thought that the plan of the Bill was the most admirable that possibly could be developed. He believed that the financial difficulties and the administrative difficulties in connection with the county councils would be found to be infinitesimal and practically non-existent. The whole thing, as he had said at first, depended on starting the holdings and working the whole business on economic lines and with the practical certainty of economic success. There was one point on which he wished to urge one or two considerations. That clause of the Bill which dealt with co-operation seemed to be admirable in intention and did much to carry out what was so strongly urged by the Leader of the Opposition in his remarks about the necessity of efficient co-operative organisation if these small holdings were to succeed, and by the hon. Member for Wiltshire, in his admirable speech. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division agreed that efficient co-operative organisation of small holdings would afford the bes chance of making them an economic success. The hon. Member for the Chippenham Division did not seem to be quite aware that they had really solved this question in a way in Northamptonshire, both as regarded the purchase of the freehold and also with regard to the creation of small holders who were tenants, in a very admirable way. He did not think more could be learned in any other part of the country than in two or three of the towns and villages in Northamptonshire, where they had been thoroughly successful for many years. Rents were regularly paid, the land was well cultivated, and practical fixity of tenure secured. The points which he had to criticise were points of drafting rather than intention. Clause 33, which dealt with co-operative societies and credit banks did not seem to him sufficiently defined as to the sort of co-operative society and sort of credit bank which was to be encouraged and aided. It was imperative that the societies should be such as would do their work in a thorough and businesslike way, and they must be formed and composed, and operate, on definite and ascertained lines. Some speakers had referred to benevolent but inexperienced landlords and others who had initiated rash and reckless experiments. Similarly on a county council there might be some feather-headed but influential member who took great interest in this subject, but with a bee in his bonnet, who might pledge the credit of the rates for ventures and to aid in speculative and theoretical schemes which might be wholly unsound. It seemed to him that they wanted a little more definition in the matter. It might be an advantage if the Agricultural Organisation Society, who had taken a very active part in carrying out credit banks and co-operative societies and who thereby understood the practical methods that must be pursued and the standard that these societies must reach in order to be really effective, could with advantage be consulted. Why should not the Board of Agriculture practically associate with itself the Agricultural Organisation Society in dealing with these questions? In the Bills which he had himself introduced he had tried to furnish a precise definition of what societies should be recognised and aided. He ventured to think that it would be well if they insisted that these societies should be registered, that their rules should be ascertained, that they should require the punctual payment of rent; and they should also give full power to the Committee to turn out tenants who farmed their land badly, and should generally put themselves in order. The financial *status* of these societies should be thoroughly tested by the Local Government Board and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The whole of their rules should be thoroughly tested in order to see if they were satisfactory. As one who had given great attention to this subject as a former director of Lord Wantage's Land Company for some years, on which he had learned to distrust attempts to acquire blocks of land and to attract all and sundry to come and take the land, he thought that this whole subject had made an immense advance. The whole conception of the machinery indicated by the Bill, and the whole of the practical organisation now treated as essential by the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for the Chippenham Division pointed to this fact, that they had got far beyond the stage of rash ventures and speculative experiments in which land was to be taken and offered to anybody who might choose to apply. They had realised the fact that to make a real success of small holdings they must acquire the right land and put upon it the right men, and start them by right methods and under the right conditions to ensure success. It was because he believed this Bill went altogether in the right direction, that he gave it his most hearty support.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he found himself in no difficulty in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, because he had always, and the Party to which he belonged had always, been in favour of doing anything possible to increase the number of small holdings for the people. He thought that the Bill might have an effect by creating a certain number of small holdings in favoured districts, where the conditions were especially favourable to this particular kind of agriculture. But when he had said that, he was afraid that he had said nearly all that he had to say in favour of the Bill. He welcomed it for one other reason, that when they had got it to work it would become increasingly evident if they desired to do something really to benefit the agricultural industry it would be necessary to take measures very much more far-reaching, very much wider than anything contemplated in this Bill. When he said contemplated, he referred to the Bill itself, and not to the very extraordinary and magnificent utterances which had been made in respect of the Bill on platforms and elsewhere. There were, of course, a number of provisions of the Bill which seemed to him objectionable, but he thought that they were details which might be dealt with in Committee, and if the Government treated the matter in a fair and not in a partisan spirit, there was every reason to suppose that the difficulties might be got over. The first objection he had was to the provisions with respect to compulsory hiring. They wanted to increase small holdings either by lease or by purchase, and if compulsion was to be introduced at all, those who owned the land should have the option either of letting or selling to the county councils; then the county councils could either let or sell to the would-be smallholder. It seemed to him a most extraordinary thing that the Government should tie themselves down so strictly to the one method of dealing with the question. Hon. Members opposite realised as much as he did that there were many people to whom ownership was a distinctly attractive feature, and that it ought to be provided for. He did not want to force anyone who did not want to purchase to do so, but the county council should be obliged to deal fairly with the owner, and give him the option of either selling or letting, and then to make whatever arrangements they thought fit with the tenant. He did not think that the Government would be so unreasonable as to refuse to make an alteration of that kind. No argument had been more insisted upon than that the Bill would give security to the small tenant, but surely ownership was a greater security than hiring. Another argument used by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill and the hon. Member for Devizes was that if they had a large system of purchase there would be no chance of promotion. As far as he could tell from experience, if a man took up a small holding it would be some considerable time before he was in a position to require promotion to a larger holding, and even if a man did desire to purchase and enlarge his borders, he would probably wish to retain the ownership of his small holding and hire another farm and perhaps put one of his sons upon it. He objected to the proposal that the Commissioners should be able to override the popularly elected county councils and charge them with the expense of small holdings which they thought were undesirable. He was not afraid of the Commissioners exercising their powers unduly, but it was a matter of principle that if the Bill was advocated on the grounds of a national policy, in order to carry out something which was required by the nation as a whole, if the Commissioners chose to override the county council, then the public purse and not the local rates should be taxed with the cost of the experiment. Another provision which had been very much blessed by hon. Gentlemen opposite, and which had not been opposed as much as he thought it should have been by the Opposition, was the proposal to extend the period for the repayment of the loans raised by the county councils to eighty years. He objected very much to vote-catching legislation at the expense of generations to come. They had never before gone so far as eighty years in the case of these loans, and they were now proposing to charge the third generation with the extremely doubtful experiments they were making in order to justify the cry "Back to the land." The First Commissioner of Works had assumed that at the end of eighty years, if it was a question of purchase, the county council would step into a property very much enhanced in value. What right had the right hon. Gentleman to assume that the property would be enhanced in value in eighty years? He saw no prospects in the future of agricultural land being enhanced in value, and he thought it was very bad finance indeed to extend the limit of repayment for loans to eighty years, and to put upon people yet unborn a great deal of the risk of experiments made in this generation. He objected to the hope which had been raised in regard to the number of small holdings which were likely to be created under the Bill. Hon. Members opposite appeared to be proceeding on the assumption that there had been no small holdings and allotments except those which had been brought about by legislation in this direction. [Cries of "No."] Most of the arguments for the Bill proceeded on the assumption that whatever had been the action of private owners in the past nothing had been done except what had been carried through under the provisions of the Allotments Acts and other legislation dealing with small holdings. That was not the criterion by which the question could be judged. Those Acts might have accomplished much or little, but a large number of small holdings and allotments had been created outside those Acts. He had that day been furnished with some figures relating to a large agricultural property in his own constituency, and they showed that 78 per cent. of the tenants had holdings of less than thirty acres. He did not think that hon. Members opposite realised the great amount of good work which had been going on outside the operation of those Acts. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had told the House that this Bill was the irreducible minimum. He could not but agree in feeling that the measure was so small and inadequate, and as it was possible that it might stand in the way of some larger and more comprehensive measure in the future which would benefit not one class of holders, but agriculture as a whole, he sometimes felt a little doubt whether he should vote for the Second Reading at all. The Bill was being supported on the ground that it was going to deal with rural depopulation, and that was the main reason why it had been introduced. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had told him that he did not expect the measure to lead to an immense erection of bricks and mortar in various parts of the country. In the instances quoted by the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk, a great authority on the question, there had been very little building at all. The estate which the hon. Member for Newmarket had taken up was one on which he had not built a single cottage. Everyone apparently admitted that the Bill might perhaps lead to more land being attached to the cottages now existing, and perhaps to some extra buildings being provided, but no one seemed to believe that it was going to lead to more dwelling-houses being built. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill did not think so, for he had said so yesterday. Not a single Member had got up to argue that the Bill was likely to lead to a very large addition to the number of dwelling-houses in rural districts. Therefore he did not see how they were going to bring back people to the land if they were not going to provide dwellings. They might keep a certain number of people in the country who were there now, but that was all, and he only wished that the Bill would do all that hon. Members opposite seemed to think it would. The right hon. Gentleman in introducing the Bill said that he had dealt with the matter by hard thinking rather than by high talking. He himself had tried very hard to master the provisions of the Bill, and he could not find any trace whatever of hard thinking on the economic side of the question. There had been a great deal of high talking, a great deal of cry about bringing people back to the land, and about the charter of freedom for labourers. These were all admirable cries in which he should cordially join, but he was not going to adopt them in favour of a Bill which he did not believe would produce those results. He could only support the Bill because he thought it went a little way in the right direction. He supported it on the principle that he would rather have 2d. in the £ than nothing at all. He deprecated the idea that it was going to do all that hon. Members said it was in the way of bringing people back to the land and retaining those who were there. He wished that there had been more hard thinking on the economic side of the question. He should have thought that everyone would have realised that the reason why rural depopulation had been going on was simply that there were many other ways of investing money which produced a much larger return than investing it in land. That was at the bottom of the whole question. He defied any hon. Member to prove that that was not so. He defied any hon. Member to prove that an investment in agricultural land returned anything like what could be got in almost anything else they liked to put their money in. He was glad to think that there was someone sanguine enough to take the opposite view, and he hoped he would be able to convince others that they were wrong. He should say that the main reason why they could not get people to stay on the land, whether as owners or occupiers, was because the land was not sufficiently worth living upon. Those owners who were able to make land pay must have an exceptional kind of land—he was afraid that he was not in that position himself—or else they must charge rents very much in excess of what the land was worth. In the diagnosis of the exodus from the country there had been no hard thinking at all on the part of those who had drafted the Bill. Did they imagine that these small holdings were going to pay or not? [An HON. MEMBER: They are going to pay.] If they were going to pay, he failed to understand why it was that landlords, in the natural selfish pursuit of their own interest they were always supposed to be engaged in, could not be expected to do for themselves what was going to pay them.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): It is not their nature to.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was glad to think that landlords were such an unselfish class. The case that had been quoted more than any other, perhaps, was that of the noble Lord the President of the Board of Agriculture, who had invested some trust money for which he was getting 3 per cent. in a scheme for small holdings which returned rather over 4 per cent., which was more than he could get in other trust securities. Did hon. Members suppose that landlords were so altruistic as to refuse, if they had the chance, to invest their money in a way which would yield more than 1 per cent. above what they could get otherwise. He did not think that the noble Lord claimed any credit for philanthropy in the matter. He regarded it as a business transaction. Was he the only man who had got his eyes open, or had he his eyes open wider than other landlords? The Prime Minister had property in Scotland not far distant from a very successful experiment made at Blairgowrie in small holdings. The right hon. Gentleman apparently did not think it would be an economic success to cut up his property into small holdings. He was informed that the Prime Minister's property was let to only two tenants. He gave the right hon. Gentleman full credit for doing what he thought right with this property in the same way as the noble Lord the President of the Board of Agriculture had done. If they were to have evidence adduced in regard to what one had done, they must also have the evidence in regard to the other. And they must know why the conditions in the part of the country where the Prime Minister had his estate were unfavourable to the experiment which he was fond of pressing upon everybody else. The proposals now made by the Government seemed to be entirely foreign to their own professions of free trade. They were proposals to interfere with the ordinary course of a particular industry. They should have gone to the root of the matter instead of merely touching the fringe. He did not believe there was the slightest chance of really benefiting agriculture until they went very much deeper into the question than the Government were now attempting to do, or were likely to do. There were three things which ought to have been included in this measure. One was the simplification of the system of land transfer. He believed that an immense amount of land ready to be bought and sold was perpetually being stopped because of the extraordinary legal difficulties. He should have thought the first step to be taken was the simplification of transfer. He could not expect the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite (the Solicitor-General) in his own interest to take any step in that direction. [Cries of "Oh!"] He had not said anything in the least offensive. He was sure that in his public capacity the hon. and learned Gentleman would consider the advisability of introducing a reform of that sort, and that he would not allow his own interest as a member of the legal profession to stand in the way. Nor did he think that the other members of the legal profession would allow their own particular interest to stand in the way of what he believed to be a great national reform.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said he hoped they would have the support of the hon. Member in Committee in maintaining the provisions in the schedule of the Bill for securing simplicity of procedure.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said that anything that secured simplicity of procedure in connection with land transfer would have his most cordial support, and especially anything that might be proposed with regard to land registration. In the second place, he thought something should be done to advance and assist co-operation. The Government, if they had their heart in the matter, would, he thought, have embarked something in excess of the paltry £100,000 provided for under the Bill, in order to initiate co-operative societies, which would really have done something to make small holdings more likely to pay. The third point which had been omitted was in regard to the most unfair system of taxation, both local and general, which bore upon the agricultural industry. There was no attempt to deal with that question, and he believed it to be a far more serious evil than hon. Gentlemen opposite were willing to admit. The Local Taxation Commission, which reported some years ago, came to the conclusion that the sum of £2,500,000 was due in relief of local rates. The local rates had increased very much since then, and he should say that the sum of £3,000,000 was now required to make the system fair with regard to the people who made their living out of agricultural land. Nothing in his opinion would ever be satisfactory in the direction of land reform which did not recognise the duty of allowing people who lived upon the land to pay not upon what was supposed to be their incomes but upon their actual incomes. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were always pointing to Denmark as the example for this country to copy. Might he be allowed to say that after reading the last diplomatic and consular Report, he found that in recent years a great deal had been done in Denmark in the way of relieving landowners from unfair taxation? Further, in the last few years much had been done in that country to mitigate the hardships which still fell upon the people who occupied land in this country. The Bill could not be regarded as at all a satisfactory solution of the difficulty; it was merely a tinkering with a great question and postponing the real solution. The First Commissioner of Works had given them on the previous day a quotation from Horace wrenched like most of the Government quotations on this subject from its context. Surely the proper quotation should have been—

"Vivendi recte qui prorogat horam,
Rusticus expectat dum defluat amnis, at ille
Labitur et labetur in omne volubilis ævum."

In other words, the man who put off the hour of reforming his life was like the rustic who waited for something which it was impossible for him to have. If the right hon. Gentleman put off the hour for dealing fully and properly with this land question, he was like the rustic who was expecting to achieve something which was quite impossible of achievement; so long as he put off that hour the people in this country would not have an opportunity of going back to the land and living prosperously upon it.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford) said he had listened with very much interest to the speech of the hon. Member for Oswestry. Up to the last speech or two his right hon. friend who introduced the Bill had been congratulated on the way in which the measure had been received; but now, at last, the House found that this poor unfortunate measure was so small and so inadequate that nothing could be expected from it! It had been said that they had only got from the Government a half measure; then it fell to a quarter measure; and he really thought that hon. Gentlemen opposite were going down to vulgar fractions. He did not think that most hon. Members took the same pessimistic view which the hon. Gentleman had just done all through his speech. He thought that the hon. Gentleman was actually going to put before the House some grand scheme which the First Commissioner of Works could adopt so as to bring the measure up to his standard for the solution of the land question. But his hopes were disappointed. He regretted that the hon. Member for Oswestry and his friends did not introduce such a grand scheme in the days gone by, when they were in office for so many years. They were all in favour of cheapening the cost of land transfer. They on the Liberal side had been preaching that doctrine for years, both inside and outside the House. So was it also in regard to rural housing. He believed that there was very great scope in this country for small holdings. Everyone seemed agreed that there was a demand for such small holdings, and the only difference was as to the conditions upon which these small holdings should be held. It might be right to supply them under the conditions approved by the right hon. Member for Bordesley or under the conditions of this Bill; but he believed that there was a great demand for them.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN: I never said that there was not a demand for small holdings; I have always recognised that there was.

MR. ROWLANDS said he would accept the statement of the hon. Gentleman; but the question was, how was the demand to be supplied? They had always accepted with gratitude what had been done either by voluntary effort or by legislation. He had had as much correspondence on this question as a good many people. He had been responsible for calling non-political conferences in different parts of the country, followed by public meetings, to discuss the matter; and he had found that there was the strongest possible desire for small holdings, and, what was more, that there was no opposition to the idea that the people should get the opportunity of going on the land either by purchase or by hire. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had become very enthusiastic over the difference between letting and selling land to the people. Some hon. Members on that side of the House had had the idea that people should obtain the right of getting the fee simple of their property in towns, but except from the late Lord Randolph Churchill they did not get any support from hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Town Holdings Committee, of which he had been a member, agreed with the opinion that the letting of land on the leasehold system possessed considerable advantages and conveniences. The one great argument for leasing instead of purchasing property was that it released the tenant's capital to be used for other purposes. That was true of hiring land under this Bill. The hon. Member for Oswestry had said that if the county council took over the land they would relieve the landowners of much responsibility so that compulsion was not necessary. Let them take on the other hand the case of hiring—and the case of a man who had no capital to commence to purchase—a man who could not put down even the one-eighth which would be required if they altered the Bill of 1892 according to the ideas of the right hon. Member for Bordesley. That man, however, had something which was known in his locality, and which to him was as valuable as capital. He was known to be a man of good moral character, and a sober and a steady man. That could be stated by the farmer who had employed him. Under this Bill he was face to face with no responsibility for payment towards purchase money. All he had to do was to meet his rent. He would not have, as under the purchase system to have recourse to the credit banks which were in existence in this country. What they had to do was not only to bring small holdings into existence, but to organise them, and under this system instead of a man having to pay an instalment they left everything clear for him, and he would go into the holding and get to work under the best possible conditions, his only liability being to meet the rent. The hon. Member for Oswestry was very much afraid that they were going to lend money under conditions which would not be beneficial, but the House had found money for many other purposes which benefited other classes. He believed that the landowners had benefited in this regard by money advanced by the Public Works Loans Commission. The money advanced was to be lent by that body at the minimum rate of interest allowed. The hon. Member for Oswestry also criticised the fact that eighty years was taken for repayment. He forgot the exact time in which under the last Amendment of the Housing Act passed by the late Government repayment was arranged for, but it was a very long period, and he thought that it should be extended over a longer period in the case of land than in the case of houses. For himself he was pleased that the Government had taken eighty years in regard to land. They started with an eighty years limit, and every repayment was so much towards the sinking fund, and every year the capitalised value of that would become more and more valuable to the locality, so that the security of the locality would be continually increasing if the repayments were maintained.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) thought that the eighty years was not only applicable for the purposes of the land, but for the purposes of any buildings which the county council thought fit to erect on it.

MR. ROWLANDS said as he read the Bill the period related to the land alone. Perhaps the Solicitor-General would clear up the point and satisfy them upon it, but he did not want to go into it in detail now. He thought Parliament might give a much longer period for repayment in the case of land than in the case of houses, and there were some people who thought that in regard to the former a hundred years might safely be given. They were told that the period should be the period allowed under the Local Loans Fund.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr. CALDWELL) said the points to which the hon. Gentleman was alluding were matters of detail which should be raised not upon the Second Reading of the Bill but in Committee. As there were a number of other Members who were anxious to speak he hoped the hon. Member would not prolong the debate on the Second Reading by referring to points of detail.

MR. ROWLANDS said he would leave the subject where it was. He only wanted to call the attention of the Government in the question of loans, and he would not have gone into the question but for the observations made on the other side of the House. As to the central body he could not see the reason for the opposition to the appointment of Commissioners. He believed that in order to get the work done thoroughly they must have a direct touch between the House and the local authority. He therefore did not see any objection to a proposal which gave that direct touch to the Minister of Agriculture. One other point he wished to refer to was that of co-operation in regard to small holdings. Wherever they found that small holdings in Europe had been a great success they would find that that result had been achieved by the system of co-operative distribution. He believed that such co-operative efforts were the mainstay of the system of small holdings in Denmark and other countries. The Staffordshire Farmers' Co-operative Society founded in 1897 had created a milk trade which had tended to the prosperity of the farmers. Then there was the Hereford Co-operative Fruit Trading Society which sent the fruit produced by the farmers, graded, into the market, and that had been a great means of giving work to the labourers. The same sort of movement had been going on in every direction, and all experience tended to show that the associated effort by means of which the farmers sent their produce through the best possible channels was a system we should have to adopt if we were to compete with other parts of the world. Another reason for the adoption of the system arose in connection with railway rates, because such a system would force the railway companies to reduce their charges. He ventured to say in conclusion that they had before them a very useful and practical measure indeed. It might be strengthened in Committee, but he was sure that it would tend to bring about a great amount of prosperity which they all desired. He was sure also that everyone would welcome the effort of his right hon. friend, and he hoped the measure would speedily be placed on the Statute-book.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) agreed with the last remark of the hon. Member for Dartford as to the advantage of co-operation, but pointed out that co-operation under tenancies never succeeded except under great difficulties and under the patronage, not so much of the co-operators themselves as of private gentlemen and others; it never succeeded except in countries where ownership was the predominant feature. If they wanted co-operation to flourish nationally they must have ownership. He was glad that they were all agreed as to the benefit of small holdings. They differed only as to methods. On the one side was the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, who had set his face against ownership. The right hon. Gentleman was setting up a barrier against any agricultural labourer ever becoming the owner of an inch of the soil he cultivated.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The right hon. Gentleman misunderstands me. I leave the whole of the Act of 1892, passed by the friends of the right hon. Gentleman, in operation.

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS said that, at any rate, tenancy was the basis of the Bill. On the other side were those who supported the principle of ownership, among whom he believed were several of the supporters of the Government. One would have imagined from the utterances of the Prime Minister that the Bill was going to be a wonderful measure—

> "We are enabling the peasantry,"

said the right hon. Gentleman—he meant the labourers, of course, for there were no peasantry—

> "to lift up their heads and call their souls their own; to obtain a footing; to be no longer tied men, but freed."

It was "the mountain in labour," and the Bill before the House had been the result. The right hon. Gentleman knew that not one man in ten would ever study the Bill, but would take that description as being the Bill itself. Dealing with allotments, he showed that the Act of 1887 had not been interfered with by the Parish Councils Act, 1894; the name was simply changed from the Poor Law and Sanitary Authority to the District Council, and up to to-day any six labourers might apply to the district council to be provided with allotments. To his own knowledge that Act had been very useful to the labourers, who would rather apply to large district councils composed of representatives of many parishes than to the council of the particular parish to which they belonged. He wanted to know whether the present measure abolished the power of applying to the district council and made the parish council the sole arbiter for the obtaining of allotments. That was a very important question, because if that right to apply to the district council for allotments was abolished it was a retrograde step The allotment of this Bill was, however, of small importance, but the right hon. Gentleman in one of his statements made the Act of 1887 to appear of no use whatever. The principle of that Act was to provide allotments by voluntary arrangement, and in default of that by aid of the district council. The right hon. Gentleman ignored altogether the thousands of allotments which were secured by voluntary arrangement under the Act. If he read the Report published three years after the Act was passed he would find that in those three years 92,000 allotments had been obtained. By the administration of the Act, at any rate, the number of allotments had increased four or five fold since it came into operation, and the presumption was that that vast increase was due to the passing of the Act of 1887 and that comparatively few allotments were obtained compulsorily. He protested therefore against that Act being so misrepresented. The small holdings part of the measure was the important part from the point of view of the labourers. Speaking from the labourer's point of view he would ask what had they got. To this he asked the attention of those who were against all sweated labour. If they wanted a Bill for sweating it was the Bill before the House. He would take a concrete case. A local authority purchased £5,000 worth of land and divided it into small holdings. Everybody knew that corporation management was always costly, and therefore the expenses of management under the local authority would be very high, and that heavy expenditure would be included in the rent which the small holder had to pay, and the sinking fund was another charge The one fact certain was that the men would buy the land and pay for it; but they would not get it, the local authority would get it.

Mr. LUPTON: The labourers are the local authority.

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS asked how many small holders were on the county council.

Mr. LUPTON said in an agricultural district the labourers were five to one of every other class.

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS said the small holders in the county would be a very small minority compared with the millions of other people. The small tenants would buy the land and pay for it and the community would have it, and eventually it would go to benefit the ratepayers. What the Bill said to these poor fellows was that they should labour and buy the land which should go eventually into the pockets of men many of whom were rich, but that the labourers should not have one inch of the soil which their money and toil had bought. He did not see how the right hon. Gentleman was to get out of that

He could find no answer to it. Therefore the process was a sweating one. Under the purchase system, on the other hand, all the expenses of management and repairs and so forth were not incurred, they were avoided and the rent consequently was lower. Of course, the men had to pay interest and sinking fund, but nothing else, and the land would be their own, and that made all the difference. He hoped his hon. friends representing labour would remember that. Then there was the compulsory hiring. But without some explanation from the right hon. Gentleman that seemed to him absolutely unworkable. Small holdings required homesteads unless they were near a village. Who was going to put them up, and at the end of the term to whom would they belong? The landlord or the local authority? He said there was a clause for compensation for cropping on the market garden scale, but if hon. Members read the Report of the Fruit Industries Committee they would find the compensation given was very small. Of course, they got anything they planted and unexhausted manure in the soil. But the real value of the peasants' work was put into the land and was not perceptible. They knew that the incessant toil which was put into the land added to its value by 20 per cent. Who had all the result of that? He did not get it; he simply got a little compensation on the market garden scale, which was hardly worth considering. His right hon. friend the Member for Wimbledon had dealt in his speech with the question of mortgage. His right hon. friend represented an urban constituency and this was a town question just as much as it was a rural question. His right hon. friend could enlighten the people of Wimbledon just as he could enlighten the people of Birmingham and other places on this very important subject. The financial ramifications connected with the land were so great that they affected all classes, and the working classes perhaps more than any other. There were the clubs and building societies, the benefit societies, and the thousand and one associations of workmen to be considered, and he thought that the friendly societies alone at this moment had invested in land and buildings on the land not less than between twenty and thirty millions sterling. Were they prepared to vote for a scheme that would assuredly knock down such securities and damage them considerably? He did not advance this point in any Party spirit, but only in the interests of the working classes. Under purchase, all that was different, because when a man was sold out the mortgagee would get no more than his money and therefore there could be the least possible loss. Some spirited words were used by his right hon. friend about fixity of tenure. It was a pretty phrase, useful on the platform, like "bring back the men to the land," "depopulation," and half-a-dozen phrases of that sort. Nobody knew what fixity of tenure was, and nobody could give it except by ownership, and to talk of fixity of tenure was to talk about something that this Bill could not give. The tenant would have to rely on the tender mercies of the local authority. They might take it as an axiom in all matters connected with land that those who commanded rent commanded the whole position. Under the Bill the local authority had full command over the rent. But the county councils had other interests to attend to; in some cases they had nearly a million people to preside over; they had the general body of the ratepayers, the shopkeepers, and others under them; and there might be among the community those who would say, as political economists, that the local authority should raise the rents of the small holdings in order to reduce the rates; and the reduction of the rates was a very fascinating thing for every voter, as they knew by the London County Council election. There was nothing to prevent the raising of rents on small holders, as they were very likely to do. Therefore this security, depending on popular landlordism, was not at all a good one. The next point he had to make was one which he hoped that the Liberalism of his right hon. friend would lead him to alter at once—he referred to the coercion of the local authority. It was the ratepayers who should make the local authority do what was wanted. When a candidate came forward for election as member of a local authority it was the ratepayers who told him what they wanted done. That was the democratic method, and there was no other method reconcilable with democracy. But under this Bill they had the monstrous proposition that commissioners should go down and settle schemes running, perhaps, into thousands of pounds, and the rateyayers would be called upon to pay the bill. They could not do it; they could not put the local authority in prison. He wondered that his right hon. friend the Member for Wolverhampton, after passing the Act of 1904 putting the franchise on the widest basis short of universal suffrage, could swallow such a scheme. Why not do away with local government altogether and govern by an authority in London? They were dispensing with the local authorities in this case. This was modern democracy! They seemed to be overriding Parliament by preventing discussion, and now they were overriding the local authorities—and they were not in Russia. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would remember that, especially after he had said that the men who would deal with the matters relating to small holdings would know the details, they would have an accurate knowledge of the wants of the villages, the capabilities of the land, the fitness of applicants, and so on.

MR. HARCOURT: The parish councils.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said it did not matter what the authority was—it was local; and that brought him to his other point. The parish councils were to have powers under this Bill—powers of hiring and purchasing land, but he thought that was subject to the county council. Was he right in that? Supposing the county council did not agree; were the Commissioners to override in this case as well? He should be glad if his right hon. friend would answer that. He trusted that he would take the matter seriously. [Laughter.] This was their form of democracy, and they laughed at the destruction of our local institutions. It was this to-day, it must be something else to-morrow. He came to the Act of 1892, the statements with regard to which were not true. The right hon. Gentleman had said that that Act was a pathetic and huge mistake; and that under its proposals the occupier would not become owner under less than sixty years. What was the reply? The man became owner the moment he paid his first instalment. The hon. and learned Gentleman opposite knew that there were a number of freeholds which were subject to annual payments, and subject to permanent annual payments, while under the Act of 1892 the instalments were for a certain number of years, and then ceased. The other objection to the Act of 1892 was that the rights of sale were limited. His reply was that the rights of sale were unlimited to other cultivating owners, but they had not the right to sell to a neighbouring landlord so that the holding should be absorbed into a large holding. With regard to what had been said about the money-lender, he would not be likely to advance money when he knew that the land had already been given as security to the State for the money advanced, and the interest could never be raised, and so the argument about the money-lender fell to the ground. The objections taken to the Bill of 1892 would not hold water; but his right hon. friend got as near as he could to a sneer at the magic of ownership. If the principle of the magic of ownership was not admitted, if it was not believed that a man by the possession of land, or anything else, had all that was best in him brought out, all his powers disclosed, and his energies revealed in a manner that no tenancy could bring about, then the right hon. Gentleman must have a wrong apprehension of what the power of ownership meant. The history of the Act of 1892 would dispel the imputation that it was introduced with political motives on the eve of an election; it was a Bill considered by a Committee in the previous year and introduced by himself previously, in 1886. A Select Committee, of which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was Chairman, was appointed, and that Committee approved of the Bill with some alterations. That measure was promoted as the present Bill was promoted, with a sincere desire to establish small holdings, though he did not believe that it would bring a single man back to the land or do much to keep a man there. Let the Government improve on the proposals of fifteen years ago, let them remove the 20 per cent. barrier which the labourer was asked to pay down. His own Bill, introduced a few weeks ago, would remove that difficulty. That measure had not been allowed to make any progress on account of the position of the Government. Last Wednesday they opposed it, on the ground that they were bringing in a Bill of their own. He was addressing a meeting that night in the country, and when he read a telegram stating that the Bill had been blocked again the people were almost as angry as he was himself. He would like to see the peasant class restored to the land. Their divorce from the land was completed in 1850, and from that time there had been no peasants in England, as that term was formerly understood. He remembered that in the villages songs of a pathetic character were sung in regard to that change. The refrain of one was—

> "No spot of land do I possess,
> A poor wayfaring man."

He believed the expenses of the Commissioners would represent money which might as well be thrown into the sea at once. He would suggest that the money to be spent on them should be given to the local authorities to aid them *pro rata*, according to the expense they incurred, in creating small holdings. In his Minority Report he recommended the making of grants of money for that purpose, in the same way as grants were made to the Congested Districts Board. He hoped his right hon. friend would consider that suggestion. Reference had been made to the Act of 1892 as a ludicrous failure. He pointed to the results of the experiment at Catshill as showing that small holdings could be worked on economic lines. That settlement was an all round success. There were no arrears, the men were thrifty, sober, and industrious, and the women were, if anything better than the men. Many people talked about emigration, but let them look at the state of our rural districts. In the rural districts of forty-two of our counties there were less than 200 people to the square mile, in twelve less than 100 to the square mile, and in three less than fifty. Why! it was a desert. Instead of taking money to emigrate the best of our labourers, why could they not, at no cost except a loan, which was invariably repaid, put those men into colonies on those desert lands. The issue was clear; ownership was going to win, no matter how great the opposition to it was. Look at the results of the elections at Brigg and at Rutland. The voters there would not listen to tenancy. Before sitting down he wished to refer to one other point. He had been trying for years in his own humble way to show that agriculture was the basis of our prosperity, nay, of our actual existence. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he should not make any proposal for forcing an industry which could not stand alone without State aid. His hon. friend the Member for Windsor had on the previous day referred to a French book on agriculture. In the concluding paragraph of that book, the author stated that public prosperity was like a tree. Agriculture was the root, industry and commerce were the branches and the leaves; and if the root suffered, the leaves dropped, the branches fell away, and the tree died. He would recommend that statement, not only to his right hon. friend, but to all who had the welfare of the country at heart. There was no instance in ancient or modern times where a nation, however rich or luxurious, remained in the front rank after its agriculture was destroyed, and itr rural population decayed.

SIR W. ROBSON said the right hon. Member for Bordesley in the course of his very interesting speech had asked whether it was a fact that under this Bill the powers of district councils were, in respect of allotments, transferred to parish councils, and he intimated that if that were the case the Bill took a very retrograde step. That was the case, and as to whether it was a retrograde step or not, one might perhaps refer to the amount of work district councils had done in the matter of allotments, as compared with that done by parish councils. The rural sanitary and district authorities had under the Acts of 1887, 1890, and 1892, purchased by agreement about 375 acres, and they had hired by agreement about 1,700 acres.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Can you give us the amount of acreage and the number of allotments which have been acquired by agreement under the voluntary clauses of that Act? They probably amount to 200,000.

SIR W. ROBSON: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley suggests that 200,000 allotments have been acquired outside the Acts, but he has not told us where he got that figure from.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Look into the Report of 1890 and you will see it.

Sir W. ROBSON said he was giving what had been acquired under the Act. He had searched through a good many Reports for those 200,000 allotments, and he had not succeeded in finding them. He was assured that the right hon. Gentleman must have taken into account every case where in the suburbs of a town there was a house with a garden patch. The figure was ludicrous, and he hoped it would not go forward as a figure to be seriously dealt with in the controversy. The parish councils, operating over a shorter period, had purchased by agreement twenty-six acres, hired compulsorily 252 acres, and by agreement 15,265 acres, and they had placed on the land thus acquired over 30,000 persons. Was there any comparison between the spontaneous activity of the parish councils as evidenced by these figures and the activity of the district councils? When those figures were compared, it was not fair to the parish council or to the Bill to say the transfer of the powers of the district council to the parish council was a retrogade step. The strongest objection which appeared to be taken to the Bill was founded upon the provisions conferring upon the Board of Agriculture power to supersede, if need be, the action of county councils in default. He thought the terms in which those powers had been condemned were exaggerated. He could understand that hon. Gentlemen opposite should demand that those provisions should be justified by very strong arguments and evidence. But they had treated the matter as one of constitutional magnitude, and condemned the principle in terms which apparently implied that it ought not to be applied at any time or in any circumstances. That was going too far. They had heard a great deal about overruling a representative assembly. In that House they had the greatest representative assembly in the world, and they were accustomed to be overruled. It was an almost daily occurrence nowadays to find their deliberate decisions, springing from the people, mutilated and rejected, at the instance of the right hon. Gentleman who now stood as the champion of representative assemblies. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would lay equal stress on the sanctity which ought to attach to the decisions of representative assemblies at a later stage of the session, and particularly on 24th June. The Leader of the Opposition spoke of an Education Act, which he would have done well to keep in the background, because it afforded abundant precedent —not one that he should like to see followed, but one which stopped the right hon. Gentleman from complaining of this Bill. He referred to the Defaulting Authorities Act of the last Parliament. Under the principal Act of 1902, privately appointed individuals had been empowered to incur expenditure which fell upon the rates, and when the county councils objected to that remarkable proceeding the right hon. Gentleman brought in a Bill to supersede them. The Board of Education was enabled in all cases of that kind to step in to exercise the powers of the county council against the will of the county council and at the expense of the county council. Therefore, if one wanted a precedent—which one scarcely required—there was abundant precedent in the legislation of the last Government. The right hon. Gentleman had pointed out one difficulty which had no doubt impressed the House. He had laid stress upon the difficulty of coercing a county council. There he was right. He could assure the House that the difficulties attending that course were present to the minds of those concerned in drafting the Bill, and if the Leader of the Opposition had given a little closer attention to some of the provisions of the Bill which he himself had thought would excite more attention and curiosity generally, he would have seen that the Government had met his difficulties in a very fair and reasonable way. A county council, if it thought small holdings did not pay, would no doubt give strong reasons for that conclusion, and the reasons which appealed to the county council, if they were good, would also appeal to the Commissioner. But supposing the Commissioner took a different view, then, asked the right hon. Gentleman, what was to happen? The right hon. Gentleman had overlooked for this purpose one very important provision of the Bill. The Bill contained a clause enabling the Commissioners to undertake small holdings for the purpose of demonstrating their feasibility at the charge of the Board, falling upon the small holding fund. Therefore, if the county counci said they could not establish smal holdings and the Commissioners said the could, they would back their opinion at the expense of the Exchequer. That was an excellent provision for bringing the county councils and the Commissioners into accord by means of actual experiment. He hoped they would act together in a reasonable spirit. In criticising a Bill it was easy to assume that each Party would act in the most unreasonable spirit. In the last resort the sum which the Commissioners desired to charge against the county was to be treated as a debt due to the fund to be recovered by civil proceedings, if civil proceedings became necessary, and not by mandamus. The Crown had adopted ample methods for the collecting of its debts, and he doubted very much whether the local authorities would be in a hurry to contest the payment of any sum definitely stated to be a debt from it to the Crown. The merits of any scheme of this kind must be judged, not by any abstract consideration, but by the circumstances of each individual case. In the debate there were two propositions which had come to be practically undisputed. The first was that provision for the increase of small holdings was a very fit object for public policy and State action. That was now universally agreed. The next proposition was that the Act of 1892 had completely miscarried in regard to adequately meeting the demand for small holdings. The Small Holdings Act of 1892 has been used rather for the purpose of getting allotments than for the purpose of small holdings. In the Local Government Board returns for small holdings he found an instance where 100 acres had been distributed amongst 139 persons, so that they should have been described as allotments rather than small holdings. The Act of 1892 had not only not achieved its object, it had scarcely even approached its object. All the land that it had affected was equal to about a moderate-sized farm, and all the persons it had affected were about sufficient to fill a small village. Was that an adequate outcome of a legislative attempt to meet a grave and admitted national evil? Clearly it was not. Therefore they stood in the position of being bound to meet that state of things with some remedy. He was ready to listen to any suggestion on the part of hon. Members opposite to deal, otherwise than by this proposal, with the apathy of local authorities in the matter. Some had suggested ignoring the local authorities altogether, but that would be very difficult indeed if they desired small holdings to succeed. By what means did hon. Members opposite propose to stimulate and inspire the local authorities, whose apathy was applicable just as much to purchase as to compulsory hiring? The right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had referred to his Bill as an alternative method; but it was no remedy for that apathy. They had to complain that the county councils had not used the powers they had got, had not made advances, and had not borrowed money where they might have done so. What was the right hon. Gentleman's remedy? To enable them to borrow more money and make more advances. They did not get any assistance on that point from the right hon. Gentleman's Bill. A suggestion had been made by the Committee whose Report was before them with regard to loans to landlords for the purpose of equipping small holdings. Hon. Members opposite had not urged that as an alternative proposal, however, doubtless because, if loans were made to landlords on any scale, there would be no alternative to some general measure of compulsion. Not all the landlords wanted money. Where they were dealing with impecunious landlords, advances for purposes of equipment might be of substantial service. But there was a vast area of English land which was scarcely farmed for profit at all. Considerations of sport and pleasure might in some cases override questions of profit, and he did not see anything wrong in that. So far as personal kindness was concerned, many landlords were most generous to their tenants, nevertheless they were against increasing the number of their tenants; and though they were most considerate persons, yet their estate policy encouraged large rather than small tenancies. The Government made no attack on the landlords, so far as their personal character was concerned, because of their objection to facilitate the creation of small holdings. He believed there was no great class of land proprietors in the world among whom considerations of personal property were more often subordinated to kindly personal considerations than among the landowners of England. But that was not inconsistent with an estate policy which, in its wider national aspect, might be most mischievous to the community as a whole. The landlords who took up larger tenancies were not likely to make smaller ones which required equipment.] So far from its being a want of money, there were some landlords who might honestly think the Bill bad, but who yet spent a good deal of money among the people. But another point which they had also to consider was how far the county councils were exactly representative in the matter of small holdings. The number of persons desirous of small holdings in any electoral area must necessarily be few, and the number of persons in the same area desirous of withholding them —it might be for perfectly proper motives —were often large and even powerful, especially when apprehensions of a rise in the rates influenced them. It therefore happened that those who looked for small holdings, being few and unorganised, were lost sight of in local elections which might turn on purely local questions regarded from a purely local standpoint; and it was the national and not the local point of view which must prevail in this matter. Another great point was the controversy between purchase and hiring. Nobody doubted the earnestness of the right hon. Member for Bordesley on this point, and nobody doubted the earnestness and sincerity of those who sat on the benches behind him; but he wondered whether they who championed the proposals for purchase had really considered what they were. He imagined that the landlords did not object to compulsory hire so long as they did not take away the land altogether, and left him his sporting rights. He doubted whether the landlords of the country generally adopted the view which was urged on their behalf by hon. Gentlemen opposite. The universal agreement which prevailed in the House as to the necessity for small holdings was due to the fact that in the House the question was regarded, not from a local, but from a national standpoint; and it was from the national and not from the local standpoint that the question must be determined. He could understand a landlord raising no objection to letting, so long as he was allowed his sporting rights, but objecting strongly to be expropriated in patches. Of course, everybody would rather own a piece of land, but would everybody rather pay for it? Everybody would rather buy it than hire it; purchase was an excellent thing, especially for some, but it had the initial disadvantage of requiring a good deal of money. In the case of a large number of persons the consideration presented itself that if they bought their holdings they would have nothing left for equipment and for working the land. There could be no doubt about the legitimate inference to be drawn from the figures he had quoted earlier in his speech. Where they had 200 or 300 purchases by a parish council and 15,000 acres hired, what inference could any reasonable man draw but that hiring was more popular than purchase? There was one point with regard to purchase which had not been mentioned in the debate, but to which he desired to call the attention of the House. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley, he thought, had overlooked it, and certainly the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had overlooked it, for he said—

> "Why not buy instead of hire, and thus acquire the unearned increment on the land?"

Small holdings were most successful in the immediate neighbourhood of towns, because they got an excellent market for their produce. But in the places where they would be most successful there the price might be almost prohibitive, because the land in the neighbourhood of good markets was very valuable. The Government had considered that problem, and they gave to the landlord the power of resumption in cases where building value was imminent in regard to a piece of land taken for small holdings; that was to say, as soon as the adjacent population became so great that the land had a building value, the landlord would be entitled, on paying compensation to the small holder, to sell the land. But if at the outset purchase was insisted on in such cases the price of the land with this prospective building value would be prohibitive for the purposes of small holdings; or if that policy were carried out, and the small holders obtained and cultivated the land, the result would be to impede and restrict the development of the adjacent town, the expansion of which was perhaps more important than the establishment of small holdings in that particular case. Other hon. Members had complained about the application of compulsion to land. He could not understand any landlord denying that the State had always assumed to exercise a special interest and right in landed property, and had put land on a different basis from any other property. There had been as many as twenty-three Acts passed in which provision was made for loans to the landlord. Something like six millions of money had been advanced to landlords under various Acts of Parliament. That meant that the State had a special obligation and duty in relation to landed property—an obligation and a duty to the cultivators of the soil and the community and not merely to the owner. But now, after all, the real, paramount, and urgent necessity for the proposal which the Government had made was to be found in the fact which nobody denied—namely, the rural depopulation. He was not going to dwell upon the economic aspect of that great exodus of over 300,000 persons concerned in agricultural work during the last twenty years. The figures which had been quoted showing the extent of the depopulation were few, simple, and appalling. He had no doubt whatever that economic reasons were the principal cause of the agricultural depression, and it had caused great economic loss to the country. But there was another consideration than the economic one which ought to be paramount in the mind of the House, and that was the health and virility of the race. He confessed he was rather at a loss to understand the observations of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition in answer to his hon. friend the Member for Norwich, who pointed out the discomfort of a purely urban life. He should think himself there could be no doubt at all as to the enormous physical advantages of those who lived in the country as compared with those who lived in the towns. The wholesome life of the farm or the garden, the daily work in pure air, the natural life away from smoke and the din of factories, maintained an element of our population which was worth preserving. He hoped the day would come, when in the progress of things, factories and industries would be spread over wider areas instead of being closely concentrated in confined spots. But there was little sign at present of such a dispersal over larger areas taking place. We had generation after generation growing up under conditions which made for the physical decadence of the race. In industry and in war we must rely on the physical efficiency of the people; and, those who would be most responsible for the evil results of physical decadence would be those who obstinately adhered to a landed system under which the cultivators of the soil could make neither a subsistence nor a decent career. These were the considerations which had induced the Government to bring forward this Bill and enabled them to commend it with confidence to the attention of the House.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 231.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Capt. Hn. G (Winchester
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bertram, Julius
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clark, George Smith (Belfast, N.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J.
Gretton, John
Haddock, George R.

Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel.
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn. T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd)
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
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Whitbread, Howard
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Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
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Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
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Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
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Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Bill committed to a Standing Committee.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr. Emmott) said that two instructions on the Paper, standing in the names of the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs and the hon. Member for the Reigate Division of Surrey, were not in order. The first was unnecessary, as the Committee would be able to deal with the subject matter of the instruction. The second was mandatory.[†]

LEEDS (SOUTH PARADE CHAPEL) CHARITY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

KINGSWOOD (WHITFIELD TABERNACLE, SCHOOLROOM, &c.).

Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

LONGTON (CAROLINE STREET CHAPEL) CHARITY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Eleven o'clock.

[†] The proposed instructions were as follows :—

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON : That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill that they have power to make provision to apply the Bill to Scotland.

MR. BRODIE : That it be an Instruction to the Committee to provide that the powers conferred on parish councils in regard to allotments under Part II. of the Bill shall be enlarged by the elimination of all reference to county councils, and by arranging that no other authority shall intervene between parish councils and the Commissioners in the exercise of the powers proposed to be conferred by the Bill.

[APPENDICES

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLXXV.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) House of Lords.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Factory and Workshop [H.L.]	*Earl Beauchamp*	Committee 4th June (421) Report 12th June (1387) Read 3ª and passed 13th June (1542)
Irish Tobacco	*Lord Oranmore and Browne*	Committee Report } 30th May (3) Read 3ª and passed 3rd June (244)
*Matrimonial Clauses Acts Amendment [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Report 12th June (1391) Read 3ª and passed 13th June (1554)
*Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils)	*Earl of Crewe*	Read 2ª 12th June (1343)
*Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries [H.L.]	*Earl Carrington*	Read 2ª 6th June (804)
*Statute Law Revision [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee Report } 13th June (1542)

(B.) House of Commons.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*British North America	*Mr. Churchill*	Read 1º 13th June (1616)
Credit Banks	*Sir J. Brunner*	Read 1º 13th June (1615)
*Criminal Appeal	*Mr. Gladstone*	Read 2º 31st May (177)
*Destructive Insects and Pests [H.L.]	*Sir Ed. Strachey*	Read 1º 31st May (176)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Education	*Mr. Verney*	Read 1° 13th June (1615)
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 2)	*Mr. Jowett*	Read 1° 4th June (502)
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 3)	*Mr. Steadman*	Read 1° 10th June (1101)
*Imported Watch Cases	*Mr. Kearley*	Read 2° 3rd June (416)
Incest	*Col. Lockwood*	Read 2° 4th June (607)
*Lunacy (Ireland)	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 1° 13th June (1615)
Marriage with Deceased Wife's Sister	*Sir W. B. Gurdon*	Report 7th June (962)
Married Women's Property	*Mr. Micklem*	Read 2° 4th June (607)
*Navigation Works (Ireland)	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 1° 13th June (1615)
Poor Law (Scotland) Amendment	*Sir T. Glen Coats*	Read 1° 30th May (100)
*Small Holdings and Allotments	*Mr. Harcourt*	Second Reading 12th June (1444) ,, ,, 13th ,, (1618)
*Telegraph (Money) Bill	*Mr. Buxton*	Read 1° 12th June (1144)
*Territorial and Reserve Forces	*Mr. Haldane*	Committee 3rd June (344) ,, 4th ,, (503) ,, 5th ,, (697) ,, 10th ,, (1102)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1907.

List of Rules, Orders, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 (Retreats),—Copy of Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February 1907, for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	31 May	4 weeks
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 Ordinance,—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XX. Edinburgh, No. 8) (Regulations of the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	3 June	12 weeks
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of Shops in the Parish of Cathcart (County of Renfrew) [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	3 June	40 days
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which the Examinations for 1907 shall be held [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	3 June	40 days
Intermediate Education (Ireland), Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland determining the number of Central Superintendents to conduct the Examinations in 1907 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	3 June	40 days

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

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